

**WIN! \$10,000 REBREATHER & BAHAMAS VACATION, pg. 16**

Rodale's

The Magazine Divers Trust

MAY 1996 (DISPLAY UNTIL MAY 28)

# SCUBA DIVING

Special Issue

## DIVE THE WORLD

- Best Beginner Spots
- 36 Destinations Rated
- 541 Vacation Bargains

### BEAT DIVER PANIC

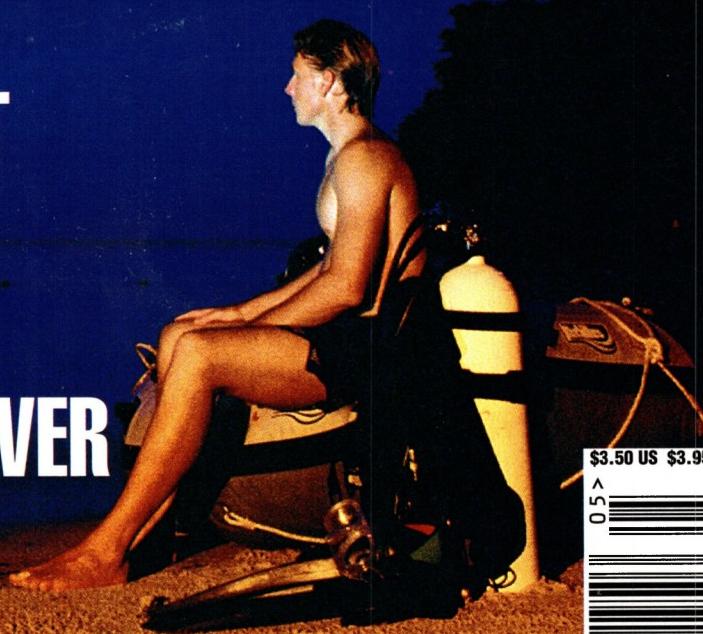
8 Secrets Revealed

### HOW TO BE A GREAT DIVE BUDDY

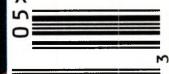
Take Our Quiz, pg. 28

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7 Explorers Tell Their  
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# BEHIND THE LINES

## Vibrations of the Impossible

By David Taylor

**I**t was a typical airplane conversation—two strangers sharing basic bios about family and jobs—until she offered an editorial comment on my career choice: “Why dive? Can’t you see fish in an aquarium without getting wet?”

“Well, yes, I suppose you could,” I said as I began my tussle with a tear-resistant pack of complimentary peanuts. A polite response, but also a clear case of not coming up with the right retort when you need it. So now, a week later, here is what I wish I had said to the well-meaning sales manager from Iowa:

“Yes, ma’am, you can see lots of fish in an aquarium. But unless you get wet, you can’t kick out over a coral wall’s wrinkled vastness and stare down into the dim void of liquid space. I dive because floating

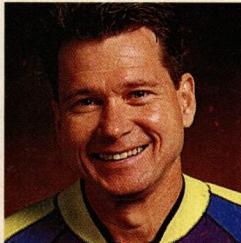
weightless in that other world does something magical and strange to you. Having been there, you’re changed forever, renewed, and you’ll always see the surface world in a different light. That doesn’t happen walking through an aquarium.

I also dive for the intense ‘now’ of it—the need to focus totally on the moment. Diving isn’t tomorrow or next

week or the next quarter. Diving is so here and now that it makes time itself seem to slow: an hour under water feels more like 15 minutes. It’s therapeutic to forget so thoroughly about ‘normal’ life.

“I dive because there is no faking it down there. No dress code. No office politics. Only the raw honesty of a shark or the unabashed innocence of a rippling school of fish, each existing only for itself. I dive because as a sport it challenges me, teaches me, broadens me. Diving reminds me and everyone who does it that we are more than our jobs.”

JOE BYRD



Diving reminds  
me and  
everyone who  
does it that we  
are more than  
our jobs.

“Most of all, I dive because I can travel. Visiting places like Brazil’s Bay of Dolphins or Mexico’s Nohoch Nah Chich cave—places that reverberate with the impossible—I am taken beyond the confines of normal.

“You see, one of diving’s great gifts is travel. It breaks us out of the familiar routines of our daily cycle and puts us on the path of self discovery. By traveling, we find out who we are by seeing who we are not. The alone-time of travel gives us a chance to reconnect with feelings that aren’t allowed in the daily grind. Travel strengthens our self-confidence by forcing us to adjust to new and strange situations. It reawakens our ability to meet new people.

“But, most of all, dive travel lets us recapture our sense of adventure. As kids we see the world through the eyes of our adventure heroes—from Huck Finn to Jacques Cousteau, Tarzan to Marlin Perkins, Amelia Earhart to Nancy Drew. The pressure to ‘mature’ robs us of those youthful dreams. But they don’t go away; dreams deferred become slow-boiling pots of bitterness. Travel lets us recapture a sense of adventure in our lives, to live the dreams of our youth.

“Ma’am, I dive for all those reasons and maybe a few more. Now, can I help you with those peanuts?”

Ironically, on the very day of this non-conversation I was flying back to Savannah to finish work on the special issue you’re now holding. Ironic because it contains our annual International Dive Travel Directory. All of our regular departments are here—as well as a feature on deep-space explorers and why they do it—but so is the most comprehensive directory of worldwide dive opportunities ever compiled. More than 500 separate operators and their vacation offerings in 72 destinations across the globe and 129 live-aboard dive boats. Travel Directory Editor Nick Lucey and his team busted their humps to get it right for one good reason:

To give us plenty of ammunition in case anybody ever asks, “Why bother getting wet?”

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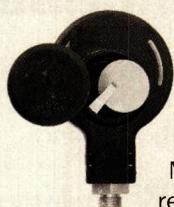
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Rodale's

# SCUBA DIVING®

The Magazine Divers Trust

Volume 5, number 4, issue 36

## Feature

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**DEEP SPACE EXPLORERS** They are the Sir Edmund Hillarys and Amelia Earharts of the underwater world—seven over-the-edge explorers who have plunged deeper than anyone else on the planet. Their answers to “Why?” are as unique as their achievements. But for each, heaven is a deep, deep place. ~By Paul Kvinta



## Travel

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**INTERNATIONAL DIVE TRAVEL DIRECTORY** From the Canary Islands to Vanuatu, Brazil to Zihuatanejo, here is the most comprehensive guide to dive destinations and operators ever compiled. Maps? Got 'em. Reader ratings of destinations? Check. Top dives in each area? Yup. Inclusive list of dive operators' best vacation packages? Of course. Live-aboards? All 129 of them. Get a binder, hide it from the kids, just be sure you hang onto this tool that brings the whole world of diving to your doorstep.

~Edited by Nick Lucey



## Diver's Handbook

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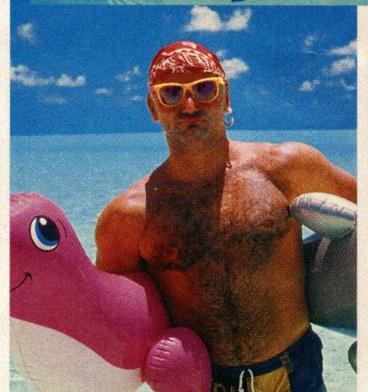
**INSTRUCTIONAL** There's a lot more to buddy diving than jumping in the same ocean together. Take our quiz and find out if you've got what it takes to be a great dive buddy. ~By Jon Hardy

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**DIVE MEDICINE** Are divers properly trained to handle potential panic situations under water? A controversial new study offers some disturbing conclusions. Also: How to avoid hitting the big red panic button. ~By Dr. Samuel Shelanski

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**VIEWFINDER** In Part 1 of his series “Painting with Light,” an award-winning photographer provides 10 surefire exposure tips for underwater lighting. ~By Franklin Viola



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**BEHIND THE LINES** With so many great aquariums, why bother getting wet? Answers from 39,000 feet. ~By David Taylor

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**LETTERS** Should divers ride the wildlife? A spudly way to defog your mask. Thirsting for freshwater conservation.

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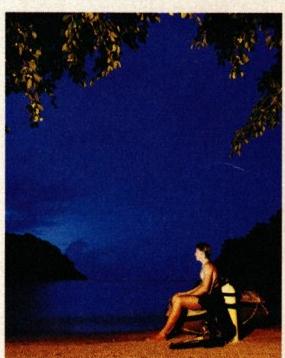
**SEAVIEW** Join our petition campaign to save Klein Bonaire from vacation condos and tennis courts. Have you ever panicked under water? Tell us about it in this month's Readers' Poll. ~Edited by Keith Phillips

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**GEAR BAG** Our picks of the best sunglasses for divers—because you should take the sun as seriously as your pupils do. ~By John Francis

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**FAR HORIZONS** Photographer Bill Curtsinger shares some good pizza anchovies with the dusky dolphins of Patagonia, Argentina. ~By Bill Curtsinger



Cover photography by Alex Kirkbride.  
Shot at Dragon Bay, east of  
Port Antonio, Jamaica.

**"WITH SHERWOOD,  
WE WORRY  
ABOUT THE PICTURE,  
NOT THE  
EQUIPMENT."**

*-Liz and Andrew Wight  
Professional Divers & Filmmakers*

"For just a moment, I wondered how long it had been since the crocs had eaten. Then I turned my attention back to the business at hand.

"We dive for a living, concentrating on capturing that perfect shot. So we need equipment we can feel confident about. Equipment we trust dive after dive in some of the most challenging underwater situations known. Even something that's not used every dive, like an octopus. If I do need it, I'm sure it'll perform at a moment's notice.

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*-Liz Wight*

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# LETTERS

## Saddle Sore

I was disturbed to see you running an advertisement in your December issue that endorsed riding whale sharks. Having worked with whale sharks for three years now, I find it troubling that so many divers feel a need to ride these and other marine animals. This is inappropriate, and divemasters who endorse such behavior are showing their biological illiteracy by saying it does not affect these animals.

In my experience around numerous whale sharks, they are gentle creatures that will tolerate swimmers, divers and even boats without much concern. However, when these animals are grabbed, they will dive or swim away rapidly. This behavior is a flight response and means the animal is experiencing stress.

Not only does riding put these animals through a traumatic experience, it can be dangerous for the diver as well. I know of two divers who on separate occasions went for rides and were hit by a whale shark's large tail when letting go. Both were amazed by the force and said the impact was powerful. It could easily dislodge a mask or regulator and even knock a diver unconscious. Aside from the danger, one diver riding a whale shark shortens the experience of being near such an incredible animal for the rest of the divers in the group, a definite breach of diving etiquette.

CARSTEN KOOYMAN  
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY  
LA JOLLA, CALIF.

## Potato Heads

After returning from a dive vacation to Saba, I found your March issue in the mailbox and began to laugh about the mask defogger letters.

Between our dives, and even at other odd times, our discussion was often devoted to this very topic. It seems that one of the veteran divers in the group, Mickey Fiverson, had come up with a homegrown version of mask defogger. Mickey started each dive trip by putting a potato into his dive bag.

Each day he would cut a new piece off the spud and rub the inside of his mask lens, then pass it around for the

rest of us to use. At first it seemed odd, but by the end of the vacation we were all lined up awaiting our turn with the potato slice.

The interesting thing about "lens spudding" is that this method is even cheaper than dishwashing liquids. Other advantages: It's easier to carry (no chance of messy spills). It helps divers support the potato farming communities of Maine, New York and Idaho. And finally, if the spud falls into the dive environment, no harm done at all. A spud for all reasons.

TONY PISCETELLI  
NEW CITY, N.Y.

## Freshwater Conservation

I enjoy your magazine tremendously and appreciate your concerns about our oceans, reefs and marine life. I too share these concerns. However, as a Tennessee resident, I am equally concerned about our inland waterways. How can I as an individual adopt a waterway, educate its users of the various ecosystems and promote responsible usage of the waterway? While our lakes, rivers, and streams may not be as pristine and diverse as our oceans, they do require just as much care and concern. I have made many dives in lakes and also rock quarries and find the fish life to be just as interesting as that in our oceans. Any help you can share with me will be appreciated.

DAVID ESTES  
HARRISON, TENN.

*Here's a short list of groups doing good work in freshwater conservation: American Fisheries Society, (301) 897-8616;*

**WEAR IT ON YOUR SLEEVE: SEND US A PIECE OF YOUR MIND AND WE'LL SEND YOU A 100 PERCENT COTTON RSD T-SHIRT IF WE USE YOUR LETTER.**



American Rivers, (202) 547-6900; Environmental Defense Fund, (202) 387-3500; Izaak Walton League of America, (800) 284-4952; Natural Resources Defense Council, (212) 727-2700; Nature Conservancy, (703) 841-5300; Trout Unlimited, (703) 522-0200.

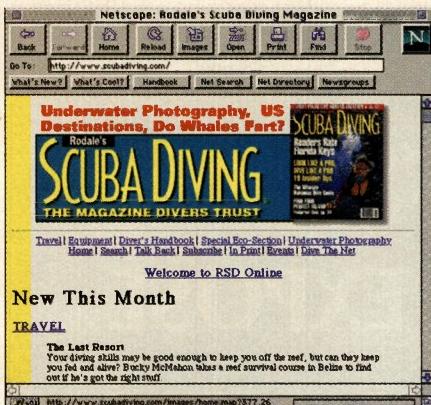
## Teaching an Old Diver New Tricks

A warning to old hands: 25 years ago, I was an avid and active diver. I logged nearly 1,500 dives in three years. Circumstances in my life changed, and I didn't dive again until 1995. I went to my local dive shop to talk about recertification. I was offered a four-hour refresher course, but after some consideration, elected the basic certification course.

I was sure glad I did. Some months later, I was on a dive in the Florida Keys on a boat where two of the divers had been away from the sport for a time. They had taken the refresher course. They were so unfamiliar with their equipment that their need for attention was a real distraction for everyone, not to mention the safety aspect. The crew was wonderful. Courtesy, however, should dictate that those away from the sport for a time should avail themselves of the many changes in safety and equipment in recent years. No doubt they and everyone diving with them would enjoy their experience more.

LOUIS SMITH  
NASHVILLE, TENN.

*Write to us: Rodale's Scuba Diving, 6600 Abercorn St., Suite 208, Savannah, GA 31405. Fax your letter: (912) 351-0735. Or e-mail us: RSDmgzn@aol.com. Include your address and phone number. We'll send you an RSD T-shirt if we use your submission.*



## RSD ONLINE



### International Destinations and Dive Sites

Get the scoop on many of the destinations and sites found in this issue. Click through the RSD Destination Index to find maps, photos, dive site descriptions and general destination info.



### Top 100

The best of the best, the cream of the crop, the Fortune 100 of diving. Our readers rate dive destinations, operators, resorts and live-aboards around the world in our annual Readers' Choice Awards.



### Equipment Reviews

ScubaLab is online with comparative equipment reviews—the only ones you'll find on the internet. Check our results before you buy.

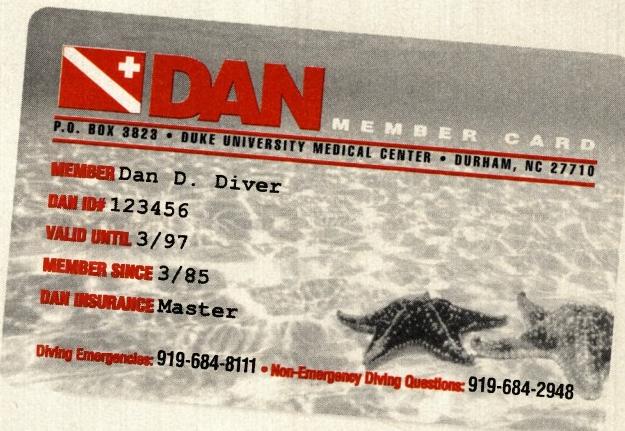


### U.S. Destinations

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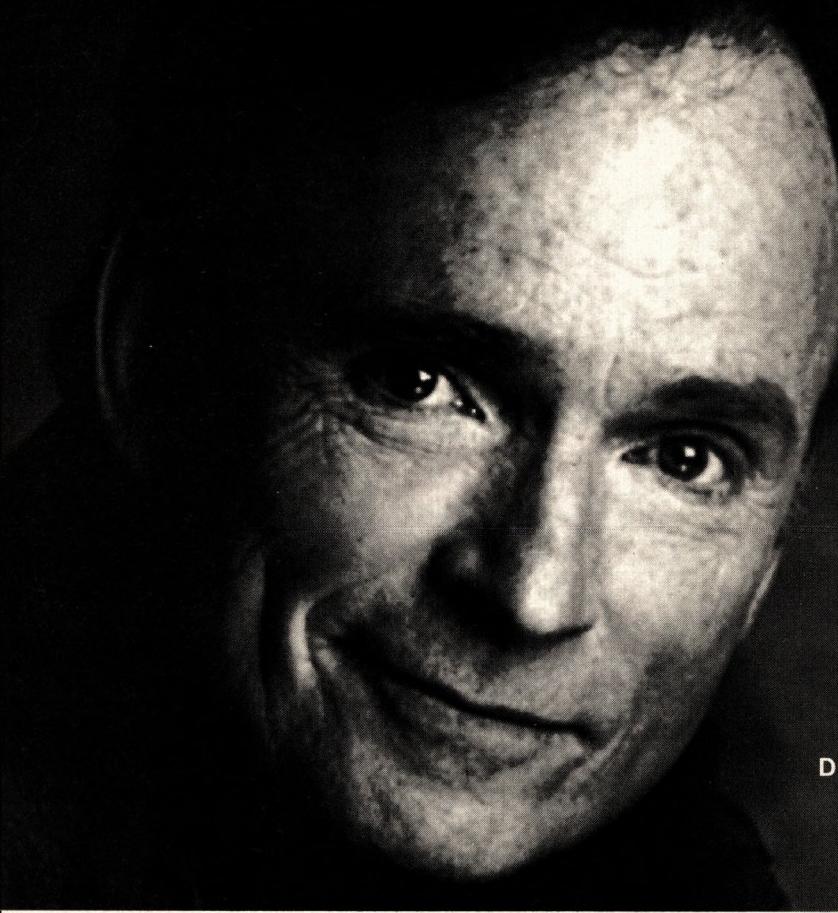
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# “DON’T EXPOSE YOURSELF TO SKIN CANCER.”

Dick Cavett, Entertainer and  
Television Host

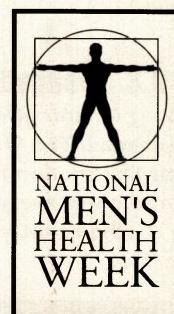
**D**uring my years of interviewing, I've spoken with thousands of men about everything from music to melodrama. Yet, it's important to me to also talk to men about the dangers of skin cancer. That's because a few years ago, I learned that I had skin cancer.

***In fact, an estimated 700,000 Americans  
develop skin cancer each year.***

Fortunately, I was treated and today I have an active life talking about less serious subjects. If you think you may be at risk for skin cancer, take time to visit your health professional for a check-up. Talk to them about what steps you can take to reduce your chances of getting skin cancer. If you would like further information on other ways to improve your health, call the toll-free number below for a free guide on healthy living.

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# SEAVIEW

**What's new, what's noteworthy under water.** —EDITED BY KEITH PHILLIPS

## DEVELOPMENT THREAT

# Save Klein Bonaire

STUART CUMMINGS

**C**arl's Hill, Ebo's Special, Leonora's Reef—the names of legendary Klein Bonaire dive sites are recorded in the logbooks and memories of divers worldwide. But ecologists and dive operators on Bonaire fear that development plans for the island could spoil the crown jewel of the Bonaire Marine Park.

"It would be devastating," says park manager Kalli DeMeyer. "I don't see how you could develop Klein Bonaire without destroying the reefs' integrity."

The Island Government of Bonaire is in a standoff with the private development company that owns the 1,750-acre island. The government has flatly rejected the company's plan to build a luxury resort and several summer homes. "They can forget about it," says Commissioner of Tourism Jopie Abraham. "We will not allow any kind of development there."

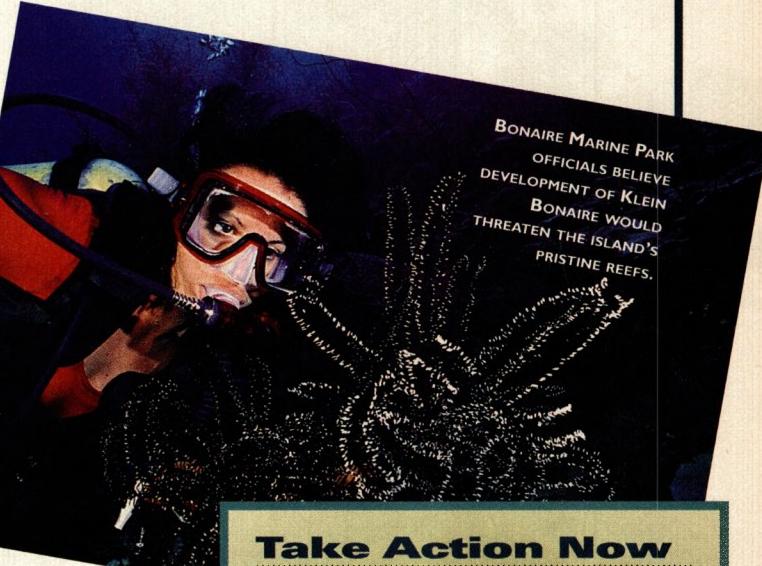
But Maurice Neme, an Aruban who is the majority shareholder of the development company, says: "We're looking at an upscale market.

There are people willing to pay high prices to live and vacation on a private island."

Neme says the company received permission to build when it purchased the land in the 1970s. At the time, island officials were pro-development, but today the government recognizes the economic value of protecting reefs. More than 25,000 divers visit Bonaire each year, spending an estimated \$30 million. RSD readers consistently name Bonaire as one of the world's top dive destinations (see "Top 100" and "Reader Ratings: Bonaire," RSD, Feb. '96).

The fringing reefs of Klein Bonaire have never suffered siltation or sewage runoff from development and are the healthiest in the marine park. Half of all boat trips run by Bonaire dive operators go to the small island, says Andre Nahr, managing director of Sand Dollar Dive and Photo. Klein Bonaire, located just 500 yards off the leeward shore, is also Bonaire's last undisturbed turtle nesting habitat.

Jeff Sybesma, an attorney and marine biologist with the Environmental Division of the



central government, has written an opinion stating that developers can be prevented from building despite policies of the government 20 years ago, but pressure from wealthy developers makes any outcome uncertain should the issue end up in court.

DeMeyer and Jack Chalk, president of the Council of Underwater Resort Operators (CURO), say the only way to guarantee protection for Klein Bonaire is to purchase the island and make it a preserve in the marine park. But with an estimated purchase price of between \$3 million and \$10 million, the problem is financing, says Abraham. The government is considering options including a land-swap with the development group, private funding sources and financial assistance from the Netherlands in the form of a debt forgiveness plan. Bonaire,

and St. Eustatius owe the Netherlands roughly 607 million guilders (US\$337 million) and pay roughly 35 million guilders annually on the debt. If the plan is adopted, the Netherlands would forgive repayment of about 200 million guilders if the islands agree to spend 60 million guilders to purchase land for preservation—including Klein Bonaire, Eastpoint on Curaçao (see "Reserve Opened to Development," RSD, Feb. '96), a forest tract on St. Maarten, and a volcanic crater on St. Eustatius.

"I consider Klein Bonaire the property of the people of Bonaire and we are not comfortable with the fact that it is privately owned," says Abraham. "We believe that we have to do everything possible to buy that island." —JOEL SIMONETTI

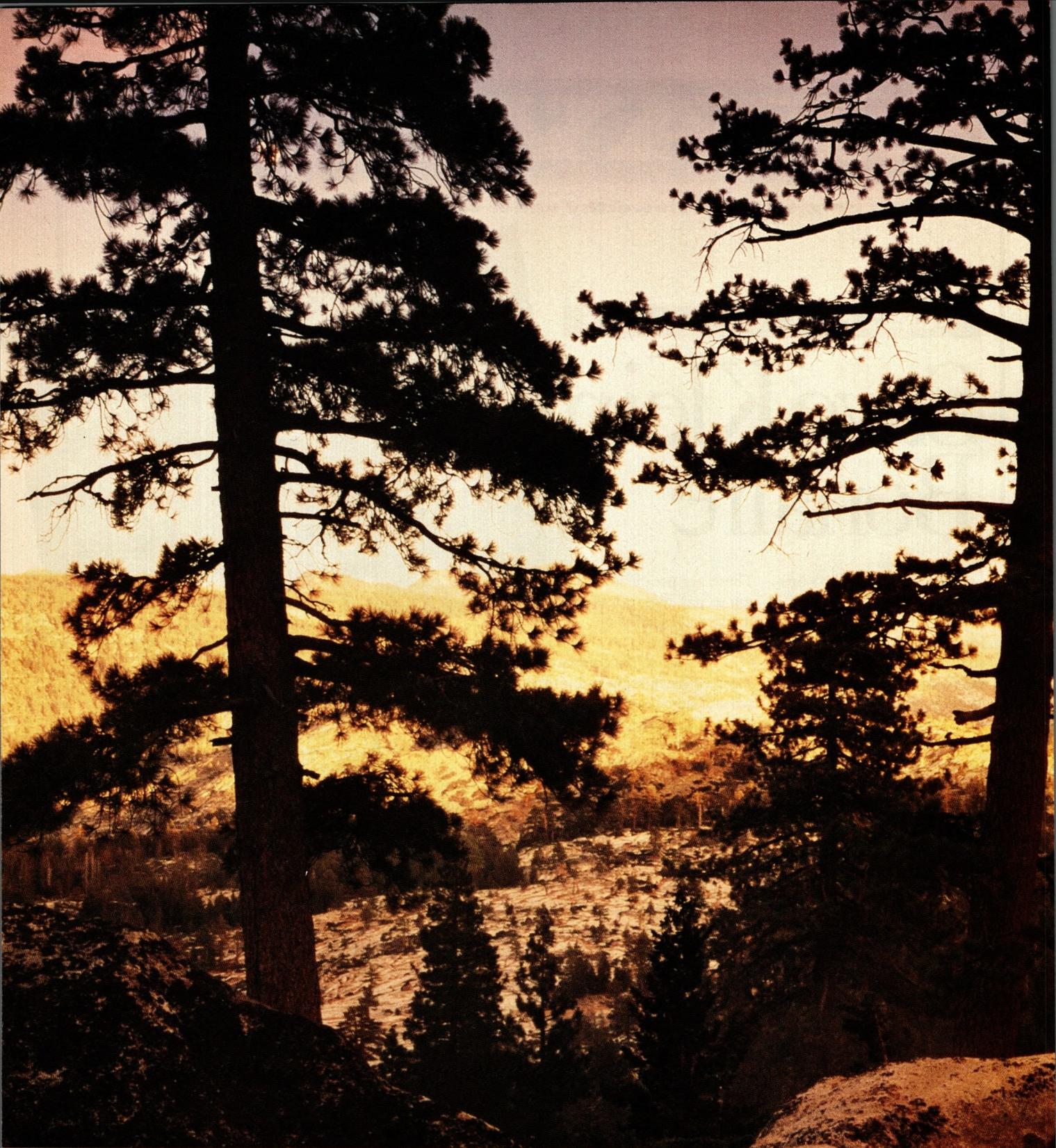
## Take Action Now

Bonaire dive operators have asked that letters of support be addressed to: Island Government of Bonaire, Wilhelmina Plaza, Bonaire. RSD will collect these letters and forward them to the island government and CURO. Send your letter to: Preserve Klein Bonaire, RSD, 6600 Abercorn St., Suite 208, Savannah, GA 31405.

To join a petition campaign supporting the Island Government of Bonaire's stand against development, visit the Preserve Klein Bonaire page on our web site: <http://www.scubadiving.com>. RSD will provide periodic updates on the web and in future issues.

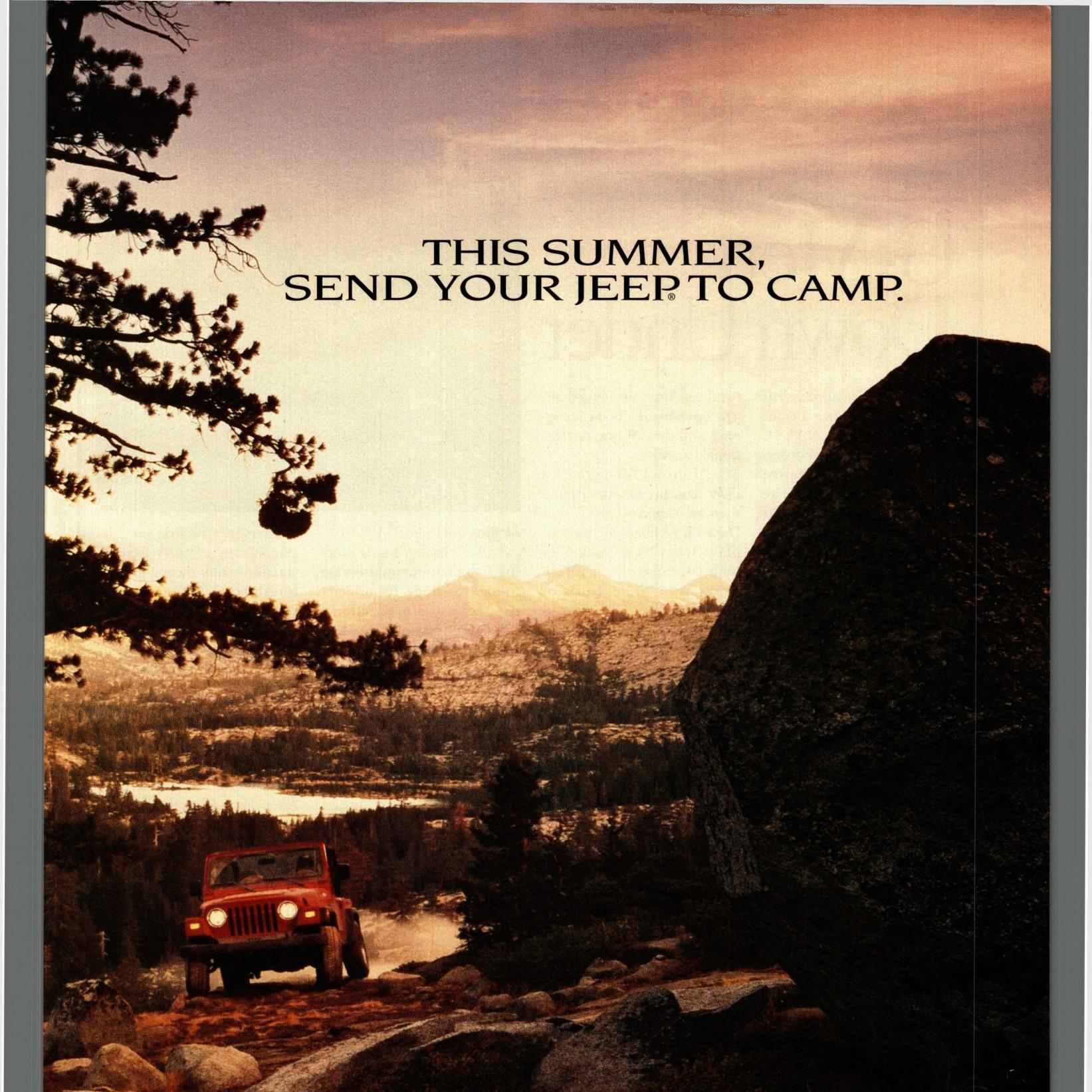
## INSIDE

► The toughest job you'll ever love, pg. 12 ► Giant squid, pg. 13 ► Reader poll, pg. 14



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## DIVING EXPLORERS

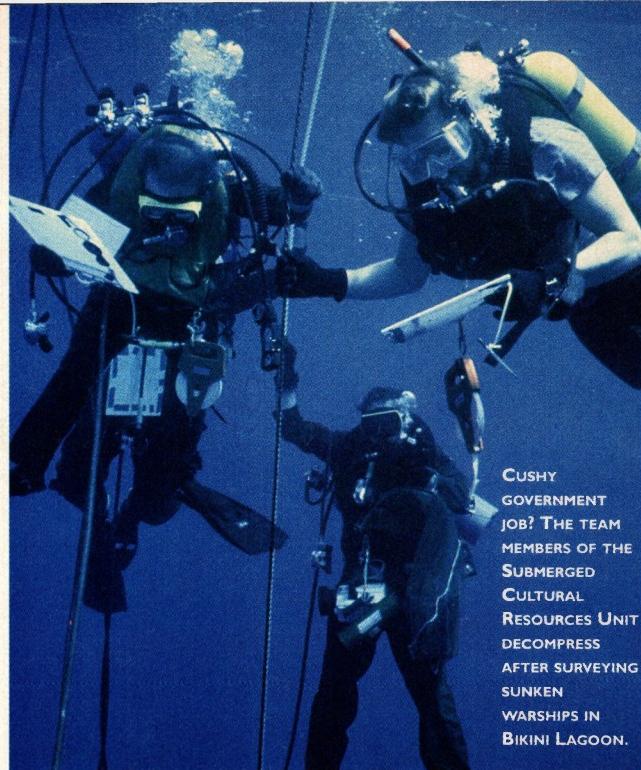
# G-Men Down Under

**S**end no resumes, but the job of your dreams is in Santa Fe, N.M.

Landlocked and bordering the Rocky Mountains, this semi-arid city is the unlikely home base of SCRU—the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit of the National Park Service. Traveling the world over for Uncle Sam, the 10-member team does it all under water: conducting archaeological or cul-

tural resource surveys, damage assessments, body recoveries and dynamiting navigational hazards.

"I consider myself a diver first, preservationist and then an archaeologist," says Daniel J. Lenihan, 50, a transplant from New York City who founded the team 24 years ago. "The kinds of things we do and environments we work in would intimidate a lot of the archae-



CUSHY  
GOVERNMENT  
JOB? THE TEAM  
MEMBERS OF THE  
SUBMERGED  
CULTURAL  
RESOURCES UNIT  
DECOMPRESS  
AFTER SURVEYING  
SUNKEN  
WARSHIPS IN  
BIKINI LAGOON.

ologists out there."

With backgrounds ranging from commercial diving to anthropology, team members have explored sunken Japanese fleets off the Aleutians in the frigid Bering Sea

and in the warmer Pacific waters of the Marshall Islands, mapped the *USS Arizona* in the murk of Pearl Harbor, confronted the cold depths and jigsaw puzzle of shipwreck remains off Isle Royale in Lake Superior, braved the treacherous currents of the English Channel examining the *CSS Alabama*, and surveyed archaeological remains under reservoirs throughout the Southwest.

"This is the first issue the NAFTA commission has deemed worthy to follow up, so in a way we've had a certain victory," says Gustavo Alanis-Ortega, president of the Mexican Center for Environmental Law. "What we want is for the project developers to follow Mexico's environmental laws."

Pilings have been driven for most of the 848-foot pier on Paradise Reef, a popular shallow

dive site. However, the CEC petition has already focused international attention on the pier. In February, a demonstration by Greenpeace—timed to coincide with a tour of the site by Julia Carabias, the Mexican environmental minister who approved the project—delayed construction for a day when protesters chained themselves to cranes.

—ROBERT J. STERNER

assignment: the first systematic survey of fully loaded warships sunk during atomic bomb tests 50 years ago. Based on the survey, returning Bikini Islanders have turned their island into a unique dive destination (see "Nuclear Test Ground Becomes Underwater Park," *RSD*, Aug. '95). Lenihan initially worried about the dangers from radiation levels and unexploded ammunition. After discovering the site was safe, he began to fear awestruck divers getting bent from dallying too long.

"Anybody whose heart is not pumping as they swim down onto the deck of the *USS Saratoga* just is not alive," says Lenihan. "You can approach it just like a plane coming in for a landing and swim from the flight deck into the hangar deck and see Helldivers lined up."

The job is not all diving adventure, however. Team members endure long separations from family, tangles of government red tape, wicked seas and brutal extremes in weather. Even so—unfortunately for the rest of us—there is little turnover in Lenihan's shop. "People tend to stay a long time," he says.

—DAVIS D. JANOWSKI

BOB STERNER

## ECO-BATTLE UPDATE

## Protesting for Paradise

**C**onstruction continues on a new cruise ship pier over Cozumel's Paradise Reef despite a new round of international opposition to the project.

A complaint against the project, filed by Mexican environmental organizations earlier this year, is being investigated by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The panel was created by the North American Free Trade Agreement to monitor how well the United States, Canada and Mexico enforce their environmental laws. "We've received several complaints, but this is the first petition that meets the criteria to require an official response," says CEC spokeswoman Rachel Vincent. Although the commission has no power to halt the project or impose sanctions if it finds violations, "our recommendations will have the weight of the public shame factor," says Vincent.

At press time, the Mexican government hadn't responded to the complaint, which claims Mexico violated its own environmental laws by allowing development group Consorcio H to build the pier. According to the Mexican Center for



A DIVER EXAMINES CORAL TRANSPLANTED TO MAKE WAY FOR COZUMEL'S NEW CRUISE SHIP PIER.

Environmental Law, the government failed to consider Cozumel's marine sanctuary designation and local laws, and didn't evaluate the environmental impact of the developer's entire plan, which includes passenger terminals and an 18-hole golf course.

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—ROBERT J. STERNER

**ARCHAEOLOGY**

# Cold Warrior



MICHIGAN SEA GRANT

**T**he Cold War ended in 1989, but try telling that to nautical archaeologist Art Cohn. As director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Cohn is racing to protect the shipwrecks of Vermont's Lake Champlain against hordes of Eastern European invaders.

Colonies of zebra mussels were first observed in the Great Lakes in 1988 after surviving a transoceanic journey in the bilge water of European ships. In 1993, the invaders were discovered in southern portions of Lake Champlain, and by the end of 1994, they had spread the entire length of the lake.

The mussels reproduce rapidly and can quickly choke a lake's ecosystem. They use strong hair-like fibers to

attach to solid underwater objects like shipwrecks. If attached to iron, mussels aid the deterioration of the metal. The mussels have no degenerative effects on wood, but large colonies of mussels can obscure artifacts beyond recognition and the weight of a colony can collapse an unstable wreck.

While some divers consider zebra mussels beneficial because of their ability to improve water clarity, Cohn and his colleagues are in a race to gather information on the lake's multitude of wrecks before mussels overtake them. "We must salvage as much information as we can," says

MEET THE  
ENEMY: ZEBRA  
MUSSELS  
THREATEN THE  
SHIPWRECKS OF  
VERMONT'S LAKE  
CHAMPLAIN.

Cohn, who is planning a \$2 million survey of the lake using sidescan sonar to inventory wrecks. When an interesting wreck is discovered, divers don dry suits and plunge into the lake's chilly waters (average temperatures range from the high 40Fs to the upper 60Fs), to survey interesting finds. Already,

there are more than 200 known shipwrecks in Lake Champlain, a large number considering only 10 percent of the lake has been surveyed. "We believe there is a vast number of undiscovered wrecks," says Cohn. "Our goal is to locate and document these vessels before they disappear." —JOSH LARONGE

**MARINE BIOLOGY**

# Hunting the Giant Squid

**F**or hundreds of years, giant squid have been the feared monsters of sea stories and the elusive prey of scientists who gather information on the deep-sea creatures only when decaying bodies and tentacles occasionally wash ashore.

But lately, scientists are literally reeling them in. A giant squid was recently recovered off Australia, and December trolling expeditions in the deep waters of the Chatham Islands, 600 miles east of New Zealand, turned up three of the massive invertebrates. The latest find, hauled in with a net full of deep-water fish known as hoki, was a 26-foot-long juvenile female with 13-foot-long tentacles, a seven-foot-long body and a head nearly six feet long. She weighed nearly half a ton.

Steve O'Shea, a marine scientist with New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, says the squid is one of only 20 of its size recorded worldwide in the past decade. Although little is known about the reclusive animals, they are thought to reach lengths of 60 to 70 feet.

O'Shea says researchers don't know why they've found three of the giant squid in such a short time. "We certainly haven't seen them for two years and all of a sudden we get three," he says. "It could be luck, which I doubt, or it could be they're coming up from the deep, or it could be a change in migration that has brought them to New Zealand."

Encouraged by these squid discoveries, O'Shea and Clyde F. E.

FIAN ARROYO

Roper of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History are planning an expedition straight from Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*. If O'Shea and Roper can raise \$5 million by winter, they plan to take a four-person submersible to 3,000 feet and be the first to go face-to-face with a living giant squid in its habitat.

"The sub is only seven meters long. That squid we got was eight meters and it was totally immature—so they grow a lot bigger," O'Shea says excitedly. "Can you imagine that eyeball staring right into the submersible?"

Yes, but who'll blink first?

—KAREN SCHWARTZ



## READER POLL

# Hitting the Panic Button

**A**ccording to a University of Wisconsin sports psychologist, we divers are a nervous lot. If you've already read this month's Dive Medicine column (pg. 32) you know the stats: more than half of experienced divers report having had feelings of panic or

example, Morgan found 64 percent of the women and 50 percent of the men report experiencing panic while under water. These include cases with identifiable sources of stress (equipment failure, entanglement) and those unexplained cases of panic that Morgan thinks are related to individual anxiety levels.

"Of those divers who have not reported panic episodes up to this point, it's probable that a number of these individuals will experience a panic attack in the future," he predicts. Scary, considering the obvious dangers.

Now it's your turn. Have you ever panicked under water? Tell us what you think about this phenomenon by calling our toll-free reader comment line, sending us e-mail or checking out our web site. We promise to keep all tales of panic episodes confidential when we publish the results in a future issue of RSD.

## May's Question

### Have you ever panicked under water?

Dial (800) DIVE-LINE. Follow the recorded instructions to vote. Or send e-mail to: [RSDmgzn@aol.com](mailto:RSDmgzn@aol.com). Please indicate that you are responding to the panic reader poll. You can also register your opinions at our web site: <http://www.scubadiving.com/>

near panic under water. That's the finding of William Morgan after 10 years of study and surveys on diver panic. In one recent survey of 245 divers, for

## REEF BRIEFS

### Marquesas Keys, Fla. ▶

#### Biological Warfare

Since their accidental import into the United States more than 60 years ago, fire ants have wreaked havoc on every ecosystem they've encountered. Their latest victim: sea turtles on the remote Marquesas Keys.

"We've got billions of fire ants here," says Tom Wilmers, biologist at the Key West National Wildlife Refuge, a 375-square-mile tract encompassing the islands 12 miles west of Key West. "We first saw them in one loggerhead turtle nest in 1990 and that number increased to nearly 50 percent by 1994. We have enough ants to pose a clear threat to the future of these nestlings." The voracious insects swarm turtle nests, devouring both eggs and hatchlings. To control the spread, researchers are studying an arsenal of biological

weapons, including a fungus, flies and other ant species that prey on fire ants. —LANCE LEONHARDT

### Pensacola, Fla. ▶

#### A Murky Past

The oldest shipwreck yet discovered off the Florida coast once again lies buried under sediment, despite two seasons of tantalizing archaeological finds—including a coin dating to 1491 and a rare armor breastplate.

The Spanish galleon in northwest Florida's Pensacola Bay was reburied last summer when state funding for excavation ran out. Based on their limited finds, archaeologists still can't say with certainty that the vessel is from the ill-fated fleet of Tristan de Luna, a Spanish explorer whose attempt to colonize the region in 1559 failed when a hurricane sank his fleet just days after arrival. Partial excavation in the bay's murky water has yielded hundreds of artifacts, from cannon balls and shards of Spanish and

Aztec pottery, to insect wings, rat bones and olive pits. These finds may ultimately help identify the ship, says State Underwater Archaeologist Roger Smith. —DAVIS D. JANOWSKI

### Seychelles ▶

#### Gangster's Paradise?

You've successfully embezzled \$30 million and now you want a hideaway that's warm and sunny, has great diving and none of those troublesome extradition laws.

Try the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. According to the Associated Press, a \$10 million "citizenship fee" will get you a new passport and immunity from criminal prosecution by other nations. The only exception: violent crimes or cases of drug trafficking within the Seychelles.

## BULLETINS

① **MAY 1/CALIFORNIA CHAMBER DAY '96.** Southern California dive operators will donate the proceeds from special dive charters to support the Catalina and Los Robles hyperbaric chambers. For more information, call (800) 348-3794.

② **MAY 4-12/OBJECTIF ATLANTIDE INTERNATIONAL TREASURE HUNT.** Dive teams from around the world will compete in the search for \$3,000 worth of sunken "treasure" hidden off Thailand. For more information, call (011) 33-5651-4217.

③ **MAY 5/THE 14TH ANNUAL SCUBA EXPO AND DIVER EXCHANGE,** sponsored by Wright State University, will be held in the Ervin J. Nutter Center in Dayton, Ohio. For more information, call (513) 873-3223.

④ **MAY 11/MEDICAL INFO FOR THE RECREATIONAL DIVER,** a series of free seminars given by diving doctors, will be held at Newton Memorial Hospital, Newton, N.J. For more information, call (201) 383-2121 or e-mail Dr. Dave Brody at [DBrody@aol.com](mailto:DBrody@aol.com).

⑤ **MAY 15/UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES** meeting at the Los Angeles City Museum. For more information, call Murray Kaufman, (310) 277-2425.

⑥ **MAY 17-19/ADEC '96. THE ASIAN DIVER EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE** will be held at the Singapore World Trade Center. For more information call (011) 65-393-4310 or fax (011) 65-294-0286.

⑦ **MAY 18/SEA '96. THE 32ND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION** sponsored by the Underwater Photographic Society of Northern California will be held at the Paramount Theatre of the Arts in Oakland. For more information, contact Susan and Bill O'Neil at (408) 974-0685.

⑧ **MAY 18-19/THE WONDER OF OUR LOCAL WATERS,** a hands-on display of native sea life in the New York area will be held at the Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation in Brooklyn, N.Y. For more information, call (718) 265-FISH.

If there's an event you would like included in Bulletins, send all relevant information at least three months in advance to: Bulletins, Rodale's Scuba Diving, 6600 Abercorn St., Suite 208, Savannah, GA 31405. Or e-mail us at [RSDmgzn@aol.com](mailto:RSDmgzn@aol.com).



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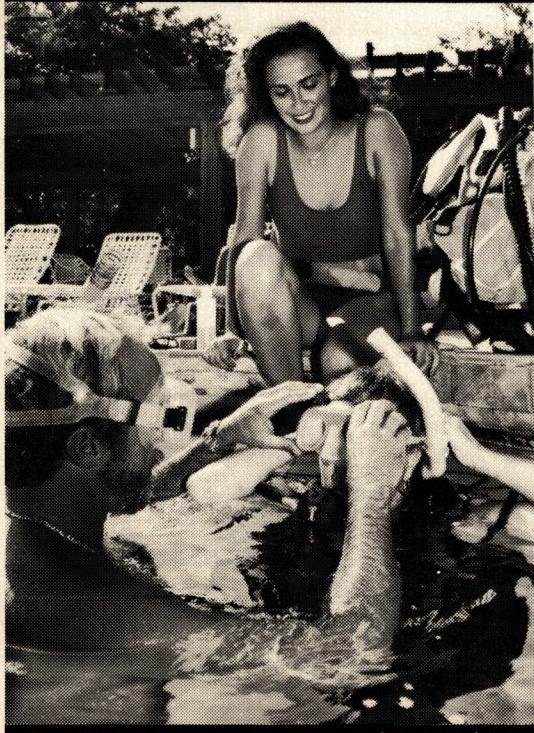
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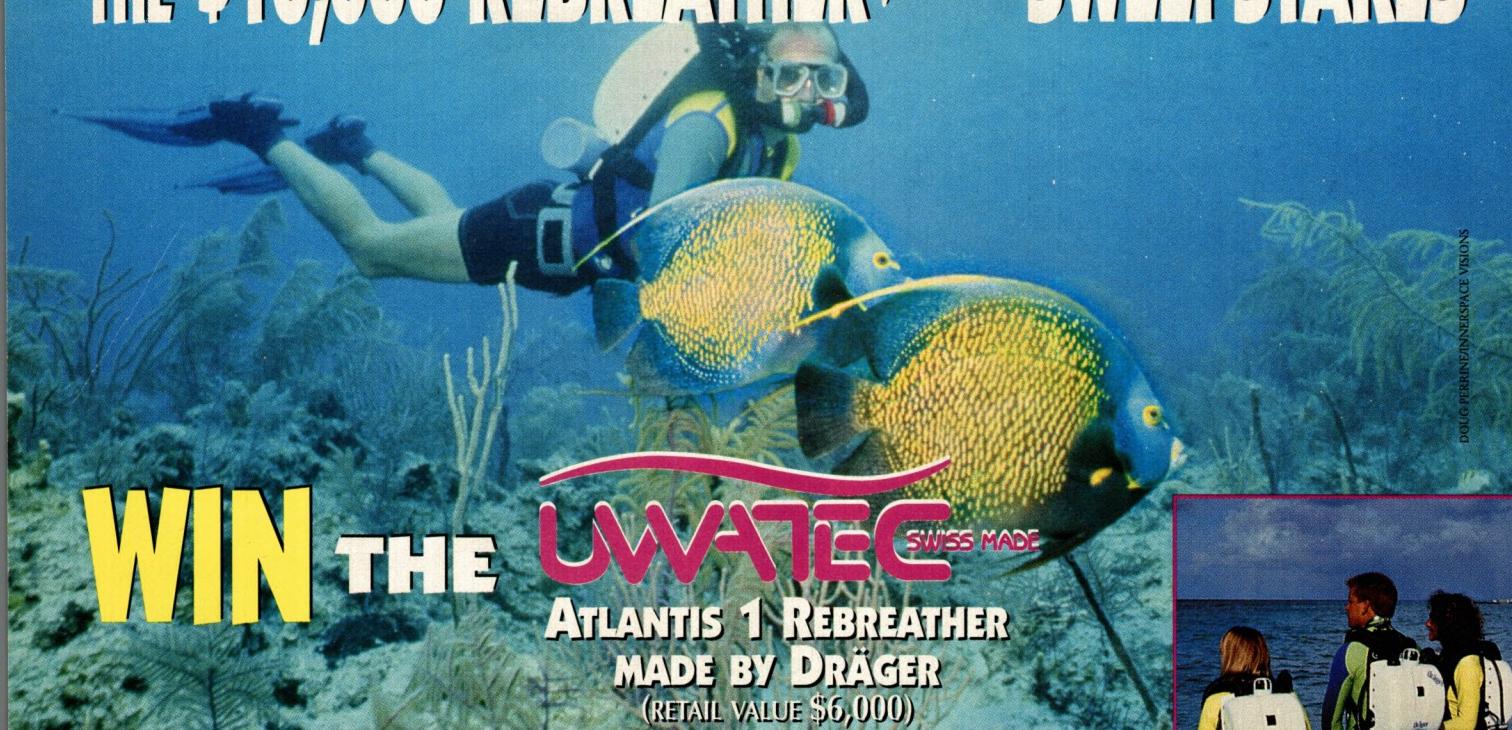
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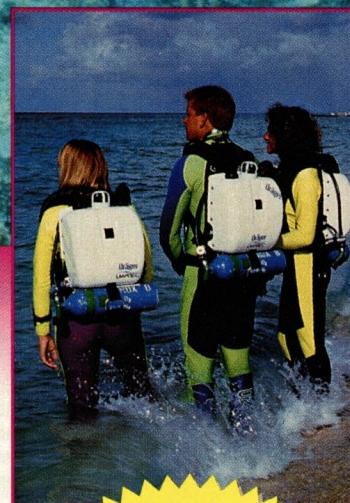


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# Cool Shades

**On a dive boat, your sunglasses should do more than just dilate your pupils.** ~ by John Francis

**W**ith your farmer john peeled down to your waist, you slip on your sunglasses, lean against the bulkhead of the dive boat and scan the horizon, waiting. You squint into the glare, searching the cloud shadow on the water, evaluating the tide rip and the circling pelicans, still waiting. At last the moment comes, and you hear what you've been waiting for: "Dude! Cool shades!"

Sure they are, and we're

## Shady Characters

all envious as hell. But factors other than style are important too, like protection from ultraviolet radiation that can turn your eyeballs into playground marbles.

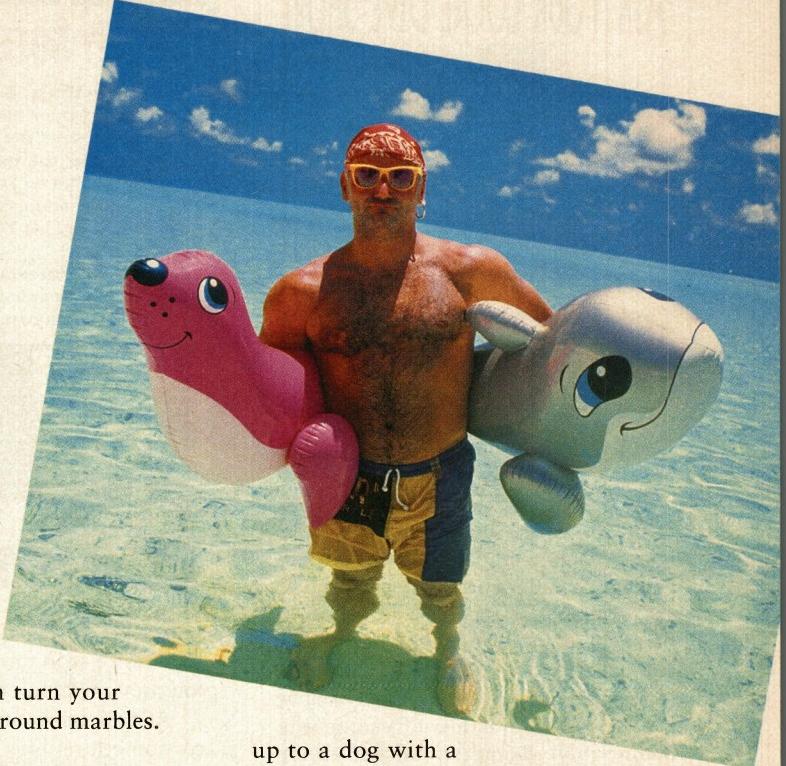
### Radiation Therapy

I know, you've heard the UV rap before: that it causes cataracts, pterygium, photo-keratitis, macular degeneration and other scary-sounding Latin words that—whatever they actually mean—add

up to a dog with a handle in your future.

The good news is that virtually any sunglasses you buy in the U.S. are required to deliver at least some protection from ultraviolet radiation. But because shades also dilate your pupils—

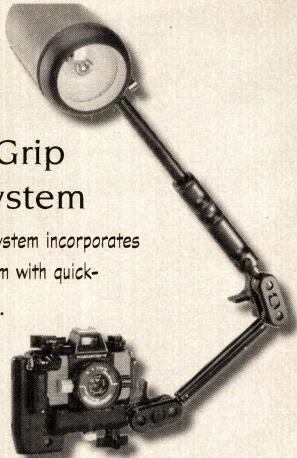
Brand	Lens	Tint	Shade	Polarizing	Sharpness	Contrast	The world looks	Frame style	Price
SUNCLOUD "Chamonix All-Weather Rose"	glass	rose	dark	strong	excellent	excellent	warm, well fed	moderate wrap, large lenses, good coverage	\$125
HOBIE "Phantom"	CR-39	dark gray	dark	strong	excellent	good	way cool	wrap-around small lenses, good coverage	\$98
MAUI JIM "Typhoon"	glass	dark gray	dark	strong	excellent	good	cool, controlled, Type A	full wrap, medium size lenses, good coverage	\$140
BOLLÉ "Polarisant" (#474)	acetate	gray	medium	mild	good	fair	like black-and-white TV	fisherman, large lenses, complete coverage	\$97
COSTA DEL MAR "Multi-Sport"	CR-39	dark gray	dark	strong	good	good	comfortable, tranquilized	fisherman, large lenses, good coverage	\$109
"Fisherman"	acrylic	gray	medium	mild	fair	fair	like bad black-and-white TV	fisherman, large lenses, good coverage	\$12
"Roadside Blue Blockers"	acrylic	orange	dark	none	poor	fair	electric Kool-Aid flashback	moderate wrap, fair coverage	\$5



FRANK OREL/TONY STONE

SUNGASSES PHOTOGRAPHED BY STEVE ESSIG

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The Ikelite N5 Mounting Tray is greatly reduced in size from usual camera mounting trays while providing attachment points for all Ikelite strobe mounting systems on either side of the tray. The design incorporates a rubber hand grip and adjustable velcro strap to provide comfort and security.

This unique tray becomes an integral part of the camera, making handling of the camera comfortable even without a strobe attached.

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## BRIEFLY NOTED

**New Defog:** Since our review of mask defoggers in the February issue, two more have raised their hands: GT-49 SEA STRAIGHT and SPARKLE. The first is a liquid gel, the second is a solid the consistency of car wax. I haven't tested either yet, but past testing suggests that the thicker the gel, the longer it works. The distributor of GT-40 says if you don't like it, you get a refund of 110 percent. For more information, call (800) 595-3383. For information on Sparkle, call (714) 378-1400.



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**More Frames:** Underwater photographers who burn film faster than air should check out the new 260-frame ProMag magazine back. Fits Nikonos V, Sea & Sea MotorMarine and other cameras. Call SEA MAG INC. at (714) 858-5466 for more information.



COURTESY OF LIFE QUEST

**Dry Diving:** Galleon Quest is a board game built around scuba diving for sunken treasure. Start a salvage company, buy equipment, dodge sharks and pirates, get rich or go broke, all while drinking cocoa in your jammies. Not a kids' game; the rules are complex because the game is meant to be realistic. From LIFEQUEST LTD., (800) 455-6962.

letting more of whatever radiation the lens doesn't stop into your eyes—some protection might not be enough.

At a minimum, look for a sticker that says something like "UV protection—ANSI general purpose." That means the glasses block at least 60 percent of UV-A and 95 percent of UV-B radiation. (The ultraviolet spectrum is divided into "A," "B" and "C" segments with progressively shorter wavelengths; "C" is absorbed by the atmosphere.)

ANSI (the American National Standards Institute) has a slightly stiffer special-purpose standard found on many sunglasses: 60 percent of UV-A and 99 percent of UV-B. Other glasses claim 100 percent protection against both UV-A and UV-B.

After UV protection, look for polarization to reduce the glare from the water. Have you ever been mystified by a divemaster's description of a reef structure? "See that dark streak just to the left of the boat? That's the canyon cutting through the reef." If you couldn't see a thing, it was probably because you weren't wearing polarized sunglasses.

Another nice feature is optically correct lenses, which are distortion-free. Distortion, like glare, won't damage your eyes, the experts say, but both can give you a headache at the end of the day.

Glass or plastic lenses? Plastic is less likely to break, more likely to scratch. Even salt crystals can scratch some plastic lenses. Likewise, flexible frames are less likely to break but can't be adjusted

to fit well. You choose.

More good news: it's no trouble to find sunglasses with polarized lenses that meet the ANSI special-purpose standard for about \$12. Try Wal-Mart if you don't believe me.

## The High Price of Style

So why spend \$80 and up for famous-name sunglasses? Good question, particularly when everything on a dive boat

seems to find its way under someone else's weight belt. Here's what the high price buys you:

► Credibility for the maker's UV claims. Hobie, for example, is probably more worried about the Federal Trade Commission and the

Food and Drug Administration than is the guy at the swap meet.

► 100 percent protection against both UV-A and UV-B radiation.

► More durable UV protection, because quality manufacturers sandwich their UV shield inside the lens instead of coating it on the outside, as is often the case with drugstore sunglasses. Those manufacturers say repeated wiping of cheap shades can rub off the UV protection. (True? My six-year-old \$12 sunglasses still test at 100 percent UV protection. But maybe I'm just lucky.)

► Noticeably better optical performance—sharpness, glare reduction, contrast, etc. You actually do see better through expensive sunglasses.

► Better materials, like plastic lenses made from scratch-resistant CR-39 or shatterproof polycarbonate instead of acrylic.

► And, frankly, all that money buys a lot of expensive marketing.

Surprisingly, the best reason to pop for a big-name brand may be the wide variety of frame styles. Sunlight reflecting off the water is a big problem on a boat, and you need close-fitting sunglasses that shield your eyes from all directions. But most drugstore sunglasses follow the current fashion for small lenses, which might be worse than useless on a boat. If they don't stop light coming from below and from the sides, all they accomplish is dilating your pupils.

## DON'T FORGET SUNBLOCK

Reflection off the water increases the need for UV protection of your skin, too. More than a painful sunburn is at stake here: about 2,600 Americans die of skin cancer every year. As the ozone layer degrades, that figure is expected to go up.

The easy prevention is a waterproof sunblock with a high SPF number—the higher the better, since even waterproof sunblock washes off somewhat. Some people with sensitive skin may react to high SPF numbers, so test a new sunscreen on a small patch of the skin on the inside of your forearm.

As a diver, you need a sunblock that is exceptionally waterproof and that doesn't migrate readily from your forehead to your eyes. Many sunblock manufacturers make "sport" formulations for this purpose.

And don't forget your lips, which have little or no melanin, the pigment that is your body's natural defense against ultraviolet damage. Lip balms with SPF numbers as high as 30 are now available.

Small lenses in a wraparound frame that fits your face snugly and accurately may be fine—until the frame gets bent slightly. Big lenses in a wraparound frame, or one with side panels like the traditional fisherman's glasses, might be a smarter choice. Yes, the fashion penalty is stiff. But it's better to look like a cataract patient than to become one.

Our chart shows four examples of high-priced shades from companies that focus especially on water sports, plus a Bollé to illustrate ideal eye coverage. These five claim full UV-A and UV-B protection. Also included are two Brand X sunglasses for those of us on a budget. Both meet the ANSI special-purpose UV standard. Remember, finding a frame that fits your particular face is probably more important than finding one with the highest UV-protection claims. ☺

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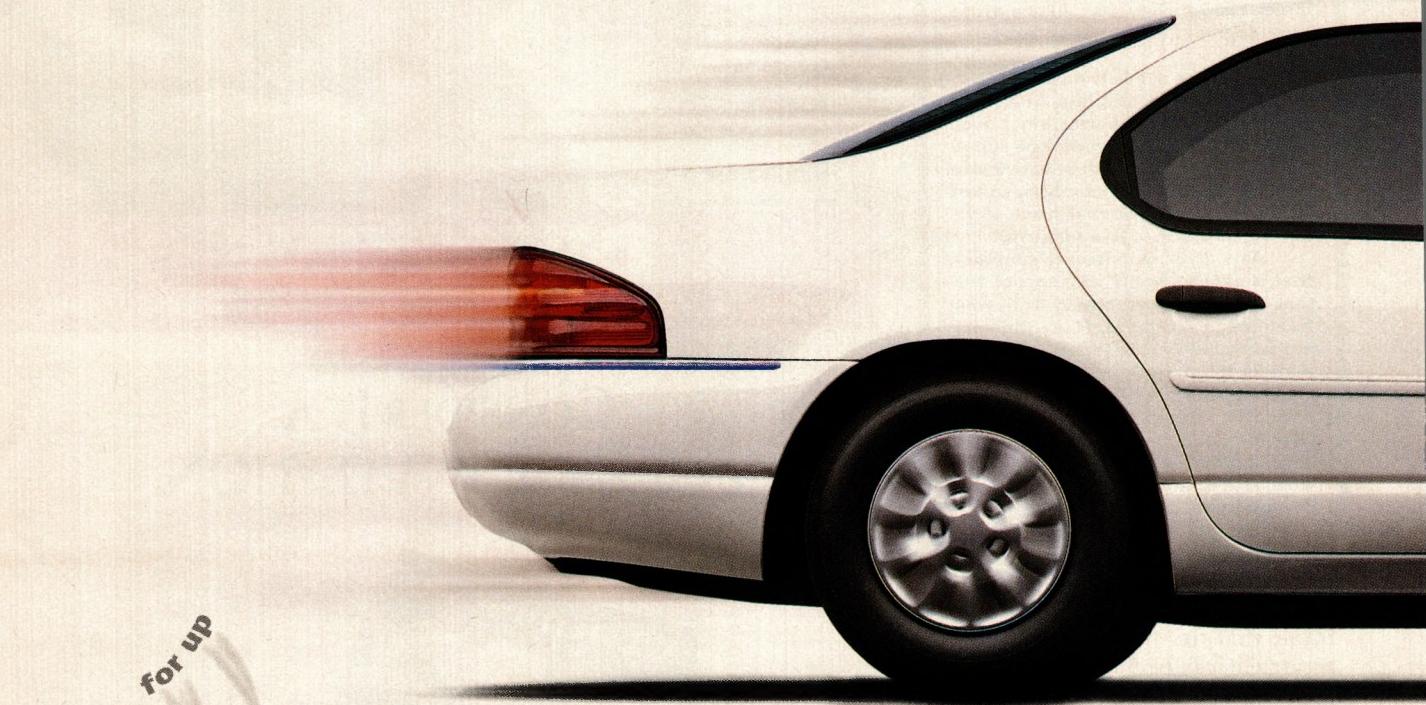
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Don't bother checking with your local weatherperson, because this is one meteorological phenomenon that won't show up on any chart, gauge or radar. (Well, maybe radar.) Introducing the all-new Plymouth Breeze, a family sports sedan that will affect your environment but not your rainy-day account. The Breeze is full of fun, clever ideas

# The new Plymouth

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for up system and rear seat air vents mean the atmosphere will be  
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very pleasant like dual air bags,<sup>†</sup> dynamic side-impact protection, height-adjustable front shoulder  
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**Seven world-class  
deep divers tell  
why they take it  
to the limit—  
and then beyond.**

# Deep Space Explorers

**B Y   P A U L   K V I N T A**

EXPLORERS OF THE DEEP HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE DECK STACKED AGAINST THEM. Society has always deemed "up" to be a very good thing and "down" to be something quite awful. The ancient Greeks celebrated an ethereal kingdom of nectar-sipping gods perched high on Mount Olympus, but trembled at the thought of Hades lurking in his deep, subterranean torture chamber. These prejudices remain with us today. Catch Jimmy Swaggart on a Sunday morning—redemption awaits the righteous high in heaven; teeth-gnashing awaits sinners in Lucifer's deep inferno.

The struggle then, for those explorers who would probe the earth's deepest places, extends well beyond physical barriers. Dropping into the abyss doesn't carry the prestige of soaring to new heights, of being Sir Edmund Hillary or Neil Armstrong. Nor does it attract financing. "It is so frustrating," legendary deep ocean explorer Sylvia Earle has said. "Particularly when the government spends \$26 million for one toilet on the space shuttle and then discusses eliminating the entire budget for underwater research."

BILL KEOGH

A dynamic photograph of a diver in a red full-body suit performing a free dive. The diver is positioned horizontally, facing downwards, with their arms tucked close to their body. A large cylindrical oxygen tank, also red with white lettering, is attached to their back. The background is a deep blue, suggesting the open ocean. The diver's suit has some white markings, including "SEC" and "OLB".

**FRANCISCO  
"PIPIN"  
FERRERAS  
HOLDS THE  
NO-LIMITS  
FREE DIVING  
RECORD AT  
MORE THAN  
400 FEET. "I  
CAN GO  
DEEPER,"  
PIPIN SAYS.**

No one can question the desire to go deep that burns within the following seven divers. In each of their own ways, they have plunged deeper than anyone else on the planet, and they've done so with little to gain. They share many characteristics—the chutzpah needed to scrape together funds for expeditions; an appreciation for the mystery of total darkness; and ultimately, an understanding that beyond a certain point, there is no turning back in the exploration of the deep. Beyond a certain point, pressure can cause a body to lose complete control. A chest cavity can implode. Oxygen can poison the blood. A diver can run out of air. Awful things can happen in the deep.

Yet for these men and women, this is not hell. Only great depth grants the opportunity to witness unimaginable life forms, to observe the artistic merging of water and rock, and to test the amazing limits of mind and body. For these people, heaven is a deep, deep place.

## PIPIN

"I just do this for myself," sniffs free diver Francisco Ferreras, aka Pipin, aloofly. "If I break a record, that is great. If not, well, O.K."

Sure it's O.K. He is Pipin, no? The people, they love him in Paris. They adore him in Rome. They worship him in Madrid. His phenomenal breath-holding plunge to 422 feet is, of course, *muy increíble*.

Will anybody ever free dive beyond 500 feet? "Yes," snaps the Cuban-born man-fish. "Someday. Somebody. Maybe me."

As of this writing, throngs of cooing journalists from Europe and Japan (where breath-hold diving is hot, hot, hot) were congregating near Cabo San Lucas on Mexico's Baja Peninsula for a major international event—the Great One was attempting to shatter his own record with a "no-limits" attempt to 428 feet.

The obscure sport of free diving divides itself into three categories: "constant-ballast," where the diver must wear a weight belt while descending and returning by fin power; "variable-ballast," where he can jettison the weight before ascending, and "no-limits," Pipin's category, which allows him to attach an unlimited amount of ballast to an underwater "sled" fixed to a line to speed the descent.

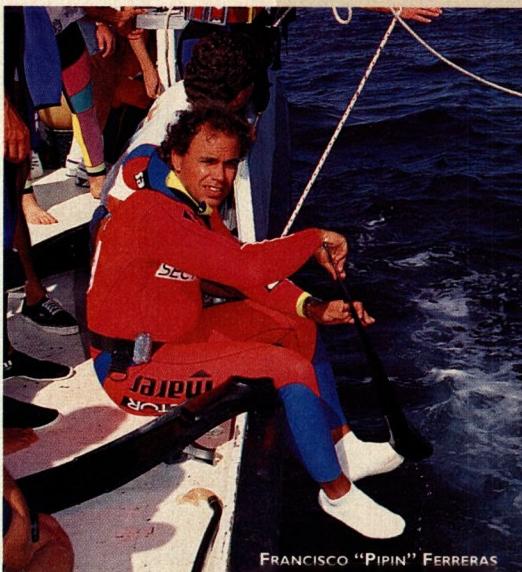
After a certain point in free diving, the process becomes an intense mental effort at blocking out a myriad of physio-



**"THE IDEA IS TO  
GO WHERE THE  
CAVE GOES.  
ZACATON JUST  
GOES STRAIGHT  
DOWN."**  
—Jim Bowden

logical roadblocks: the incredible pressure that vice-clamps the chest cavity; the bends (which Pipin has suffered twice), and shallow-water blackout during the rapid ascent via inflatable lift bag. Physically, Pipin trains for this gauntlet by jogging and lifting weights. Mentally, he spends hours meditating in a swimming pool, trying to simulate the psychological state of his dives. During the roughly three minutes it takes to torpedo to 400-plus feet and return to the surface, Pipin explains: "Nothing goes through my mind."

After taking the no-limits record from the legendary Jacques Mayol in 1990 and swapping it back and forth with Italian Umberto Pelizzari during the first part of the decade, Pipin now seems to have a lock on the deepest free-dive category. But for him, that is not enough. "I can go deeper," he insists. "I'm just trying to see how deep."



FRANCISCO "PIPIN" FERRERAS

BILL KEOGH

## JIM BOWDEN ANN KRISTOVICH

scuba gear than anyone on the planet. But for a single-minded spelunker like Bowden, depth represents simply another hurdle to overcome en route to a greater purpose—raw cave exploration. "I'm equally proud of my eight years of exploration in Belize," says the 55-year-old Texan. "And my deepest dive there was only 46 feet. The idea is to go where the cave goes. Zacaton just goes straight down."

Zacaton, the infamous 1,080-foot pit in northeastern Mexico that snuffed out the life of cave-diving legend Sheck Exley, has hypnotized Bowden like Everest enthralled Edmund Hillary. A deeper submerged cave has not been found. On April 6, 1994, Exley and Bowden made the first attempt to bottom out in Zacaton together, descending rapidly into the blackness on two separate lines and switching gas mixtures all the way down. At 918 feet, Bowden ran out of gas and began his ascent. Exley never re-emerged. The loss shocked the cave-diving community and saddened Bowden—but it spurred him to continue, not to quit.

Fortunately, when Bowden launches the second full-scale effort to the cenote's bottom—a solo dive, possibly this month—Ann Kristovich will head up his support team. Co-leader with Bowden of the *Proyecto de Buceo Espeleologico Mexico y America Central*, Kristovich set a women's deep scuba record of 553 feet in Zacaton in 1993, and she has only recently accepted that recognition as a positive thing. "I personally don't feel a need for the sexual distinction," she says. "But there are a lot more women in technical diving now, and they want attention brought to the record, so that's fine. It's good to have role models."

The team's second assault on Zacaton will differ significantly from the first. Bowden will wrap himself in seven tanks instead of five, and each will be larger; adjustments that will double his bottom mix. He'll also use a decompression habitat during the final 30 feet of his eight-hour ascent, a move that he hopes will prevent the painful DCS hits he has experienced on past dives.

If Bowden successfully hits bottom, the team can then focus on the next step—finding the possible connections between Zacaton and a handful of neighboring cenotes, like Caracol, a mysterious pit that sits virtually next door but remains completely unexplored. "Who knows?" muses Kristovich excitedly. "Caracol and Zacaton could be connected at 1,000 feet with one big room."

For his second assault on Zacaton, Jim Bowden will wrap himself in seven tanks and use a decompression habitat during the final 30 feet of his eight-hour ascent.



DAVID OMER



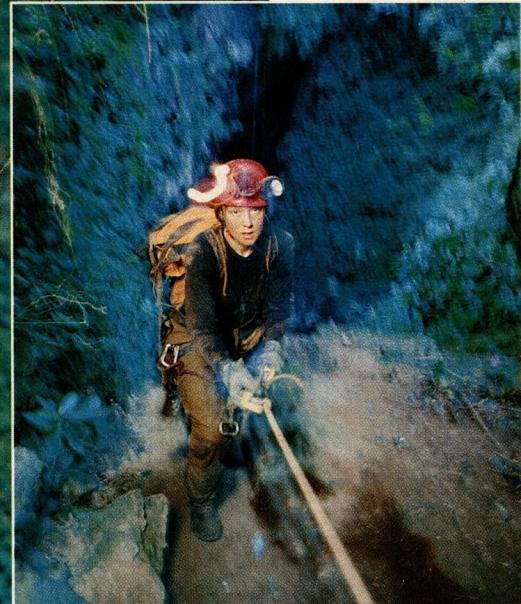
## BILL STONE BARBARA AM ENDE

STEPHEN ALVAREZ

below the surface of the earth in Mexico's Huautla cave system, huddled in total darkness on a soggy platform suspended next to a deafening waterfall. The first stage on her rebreather had just crapped out. Bill Stone, her significant other, fumbled to fix it in the blackness. One member of their expedition had recently died. Others had simply quit. Am Ende wondered if greater powers weren't trying to tell her something. "Then, after we decided not to dive that day, I found my sleeping bag was completely soaked," she says. "We tried to dry it off with the stove and succeeded in melting a hammock."

When am Ende and Stone successfully traversed the seemingly impenetrable San Agustin sump the next morning and kept alive exploration in the world's most technically difficult cave

Things couldn't have been worse for Barbara am Ende on the afternoon of April 29, 1994. She was 3,975 feet



WES SKILES

"YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU'RE ACTUALLY THERE WHO CAN HANDLE IT AND WHO CAN'T."  
—Bill Stone

system, they accomplished something no one has before—diving thousands of feet below the earth's surface. There are four caves on the planet that plumb slightly deeper than 4,839-foot Huautla, but these systems are mostly dry. And unlike the water-filled caverns of north Florida, where divers park their trucks at the entrance and jump right in, Huautla forces explorers to spend days climbing, swimming and hauling gear through three-and-a-half miles of tunnels, lakes and waterfalls before the diving even begins.

"You've come all this way for days, and then you start looking at that dark inky tunnel, and all kinds of things start playing in your mind," says Stone.

"You don't know until you're actually there who can handle it and who can't."

After reconnaissance diving in the 1,800-foot-long sump by Noel Sloan, Steve Porter, Ian Rolland and Kenny Broad, Stone and am Ende negotiated the cavern only to find an even more daunting obstacle on the other side, after a stretch of dry passage—a monster sump that plunges at a 30-degree slope and may reach depths of more than 300 feet.

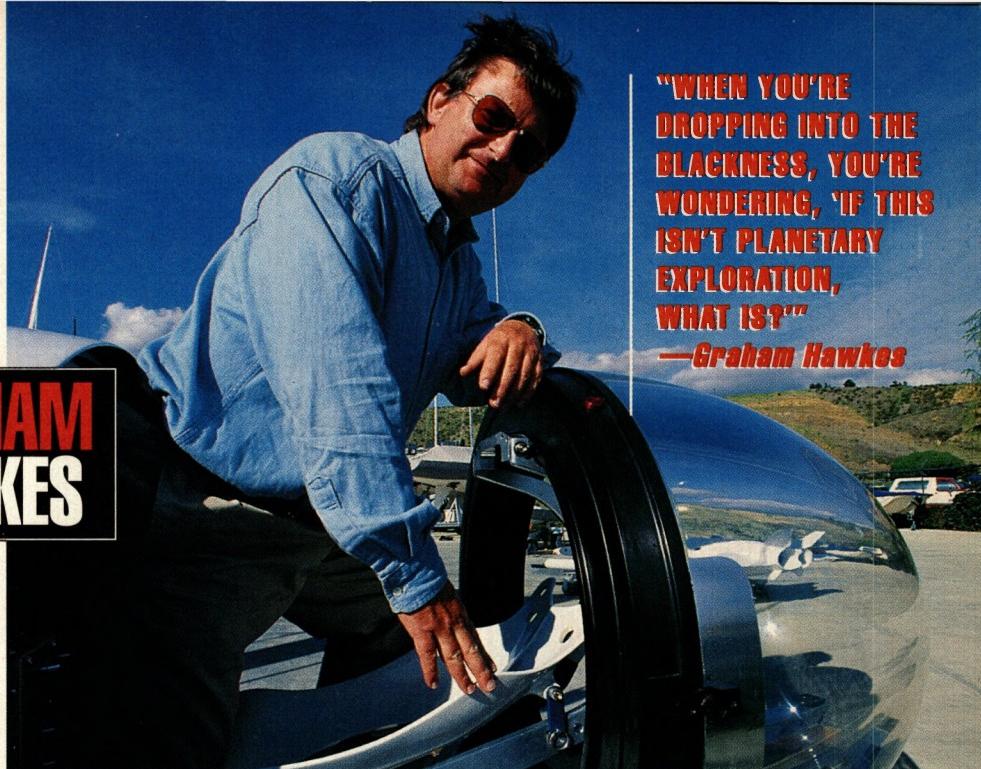
If Stone and his team can penetrate that sump on their return expedition in 1998, they stand a chance of linking the

system to a set of resurgent springs at Pena Colorado, a feat that would drop Huautla almost 500 more vertical feet and prove it to be the deepest cave in the world. Logistically, physically and mentally, a greater nightmare would be difficult to script. "For one thing," figures Stone, "I expect we'll have to spend one full month completely under ground."

AMOS NACHOUA

Graham Hawkes' 3,000-foot solo dive near California's San Clemente Island in 1985 in the spherical submersible *Deep Rover* could have been scripted by Tom Clancy. "We were trying to find a gentle slope to the bottom to run some routines," recalls Hawkes. "But first we ran into a Navy munitions dump that wasn't supposed to be there, and then there was this Soviet spy sub circling us. You could see the hammer and sickle painted on it. We informed them of our location, but we couldn't get them on the radio."

No missiles were launched, Hawkes survived, and somehow, despite the commotion, the British-born inventor set a new solo diving record. He couldn't be more unimpressed. "If a single pilot ever decided to go down in *Alvin* alone he would break the record easily," he notes matter-of-factly, referring to the deep sea submersible at Woods Hole Ocean-

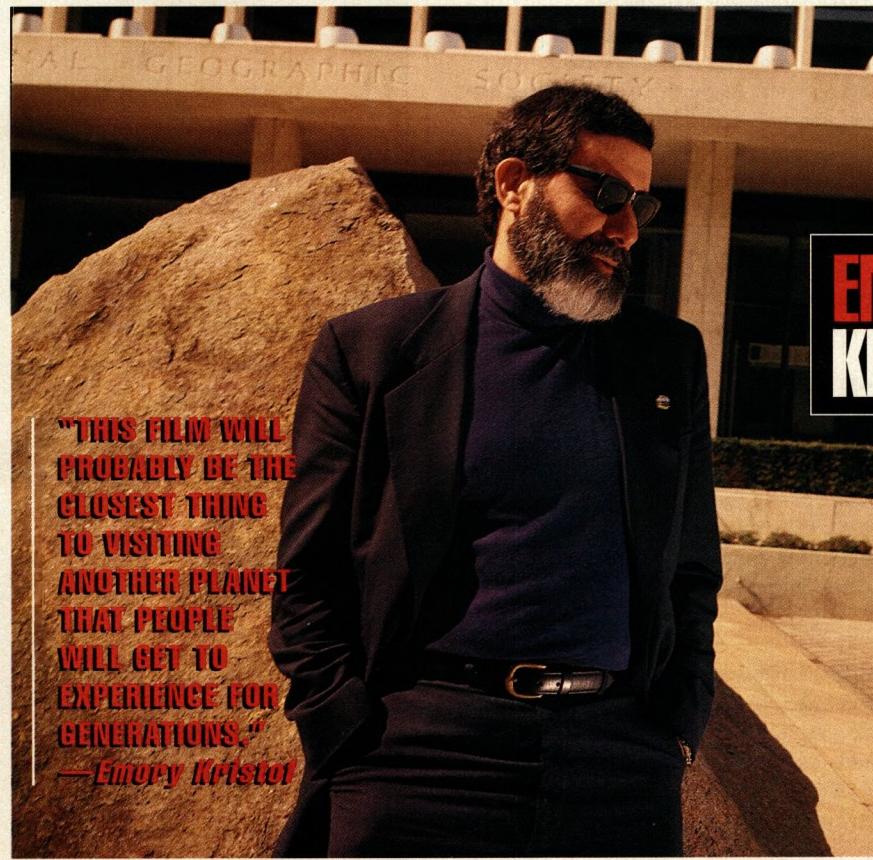


"WHEN YOU'RE DROPPING INTO THE BLACKNESS, YOU'RE WONDERING, 'IF THIS ISN'T PLANETARY EXPLORATION, WHAT IS?'"  
—Graham Hawkes

graphic Institution. Hawkes' apathy stems from the fact that his goal lies much deeper—the Mariana Trench to be precise, the deepest point on the planet.

People have visited this Pacific chasm seven miles beneath the Marianas Islands only once. French designer Jacques Piccard and U.S. Navy Lieutenant Don Walsh plunked down into the trench in a steel bathyscaphe in 1960, where they sat still and observed very little for 30 minutes. Hawkes plans to roar back aboard *Deep Flight II*, his jet fighter-inspired, single-person sub with wide-ranging mobility and a 24-hour air supply. His prototype, *Deep Flight I*, possesses everything the second generation sub will feature with one crucial exception—a hull fashioned from super-strong ceramics to withstand water pressure that crushes at a force of eight tons per square inch.

Hawkes hopes to launch his mission sometime in 1998, if he can raise the \$10 million necessary to build his machine. "Given that we need one-third the budget for an America's Cup campaign," Hawkes says confidently, "I don't think we'll have any problems raising it."



"THIS FILM WILL PROBABLY BE THE CLOSEST THING TO VISITING ANOTHER PLANET THAT PEOPLE WILL GET TO EXPERIENCE FOR GENERATIONS."

—Emory Kristof

TOM WOLF

## EMORY KRISTOF

Few people have probed the deep ocean as often or in as many different ways as photographer Emory Kristof. "The French dubbed me and my crew the Nintendo Divers," the 30-year *National Geographic* veteran chuckles, "because of the submersibles and ROVs that we use." Indeed, Kristof has scoured the depths of all four oceans and a good many lakes with so many lights, lenses, gadgets and so much artistic force that his images have largely defined the way we perceive the world thousands of feet below the surface.

Kristof, in fact, was the first certified diver at the *Geographic* in the early 1960s, "but I don't (Continued on page 113)

# How to be a **GREAT** Dive Buddy

**What do scuba diving and slow dancing have in common?**  
**Ask your favorite dive buddy.**

**By Jon Hardy**

ALTHOUGH SCUBA DIVING, DANCING AND RIDING A bicycle built for two can each be done alone, the joy of sharing these activities is half the fun.

Unfortunately, although most divers prefer to buddy dive—and are well advised to do so—many are not good buddies. As our own experiences confirm, there's a lot more to buddy diving than simply jumping into the same ocean with someone.

## The Keys to Buddy Diving

As with any recreational activity, zealous overplanning and an obsessive *safety-above-all-else* attitude can take the joy right out of it. The purpose of scuba diving is not safety, but enjoyment of the underwater world. Only by placing the emphasis on the joy of sharing diving can we focus on the true keys to being a great dive buddy.

**tip 1**

### Defining the Comfort Zone

To provide a margin of safety for ourselves, we should dive within our own comfort zone, which is defined by the depth, time, activity level and water conditions we're comfortable with. However, when buddies dive together, the team's comfort zone should be the comfort zone of the lesser of the two divers. For example, the faster swimmer should slow to a pace well within the slower buddy's comfort zone. Although defining a common comfort zone may sometimes restrict a more experienced or fit buddy, by working together divers can create a whole greater than its individual parts.

**tip 2**

### Selecting Compatible Activities

When diving with a buddy, your planned activities should be complementary, but not necessarily identical. Sightseeing and videography go well together, while close-up reef photography and drift spearfishing don't. Compatibility also applies to skills: One diver may be better at compass navigation while the other is better at maintaining a constant depth. By finding ways to complement each other, both divers benefit.





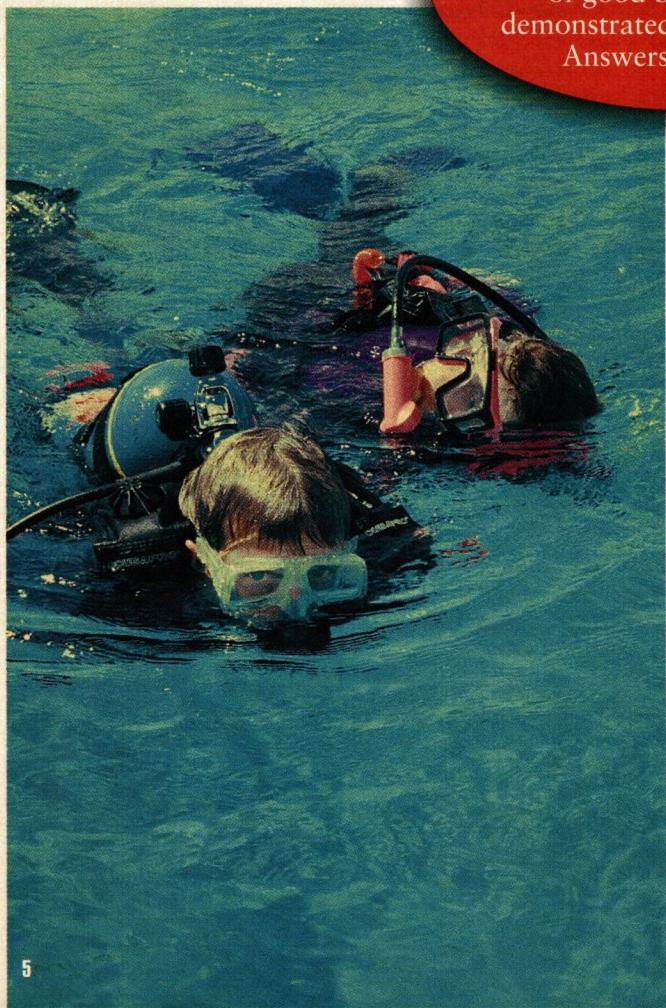
2



3

### Test Yourself

Can you identify the techniques  
of good buddy diving  
demonstrated in each photo?  
Answers on pg. 31.



5



6

**tip 3**

### **Building Cooperation**

One school of thought holds that one buddy should be the leader, the other a follower. A more productive approach is for buddies to communicate effectively so that each diver can take on aspects of both leader and follower. Buddy diving should be an equal and cooperative relationship filled with communication, both in and out of the water, not a competition to see who can go deeper, swim faster or bag more game. Most importantly, in a completely cooperative relationship, either buddy can decide at any time not to dive or to terminate a dive in progress—and then cooperate in exiting the water.

**tip 4**

### **Reducing Stress**

Diving with a buddy should reduce stress, not produce it. To ensure that it does, make pauses together at each transition, such as the beginning of a descent or an ascent. When a long surface swim is needed, alternate front and back swimming with your buddy to reduce stress.

**tip 5**

### **Increasing Awareness**

The key to more relaxed diving is increased awareness of yourself, your equipment, your environment and, especially, your buddy. Increased buddy awareness can be achieved with a slight touch, listening to bubble sounds, a brief sideways glance or even holding hands. The goal of these techniques is to reduce stress and the likelihood of separation, while improving your ability to assist each other and share the dive by becoming more aware of your buddy.

## **The How-tos of Buddy Diving**

The techniques of buddy diving are based on the concept of individual responsibility. By agreeing to be a buddy, you incur both moral and legal obligations: to stay together, to help each other, to provide assistance in an emergency and to follow generally accepted dive procedures to the best of your ability.

**tip 6**

### **Plan Together**

Although usually informal and verbal, dive plans should be written out for more complex and demanding dives. Whether verbal or written, dive plans

should include:

- The dive's purpose and activities
- General direction and route
- Cutoff points for depth, time, air or decompression
- How to change the plan.

Most textbooks still say not to change a dive plan while under water, but recreational divers have been doing so since the birth of the sport. Dive computers, especially, have made diving more flexible, and divers should take advantage of this technology, which gives us the freedom to alter a dive plan when a special opportunity arises.

**tip 7**

### **Limit the Group**

Buddy groups can include up to four divers. More than four divers becomes a group tour, not a buddy group. Threesomes have been criticized by some dive leaders and implicated in diving accidents and legal cases. It is not that three people diving together is wrong or fundamentally unsafe. But if one diver of the three is lost, it means that all three failed in their obligation to keep track of one another.

**tip 8**

### **Check and Double-Check**

You've heard it before: you check yourself, your gear and the environment; then you check each other, each other's gear and the environment together. The more you dive with the same person, the quicker and easier this procedure becomes. In addition to pre-dive buddy checks, you should also share your experiences after diving as you log the dive and observe each other for any difficulties.

**tip 9**

### **Learn to Communicate**

Regardless of what form of underwater communication you employ—hand signals or gestures, writing on slates, sounds such as instrument beeps or tapping on tanks, even wireless voice units—the key is to agree beforehand which to use and how. One form of communication that is often poorly done is the sharing of information from instruments such as pressure gauges and dive computers. Rather than using hand signals or written notes, it is far more effective to show each other the instruments. Of course, this requires that buddies know how to read each other's instruments, another aspect of pre-dive checks.

**tip 10**

### **Stay Together**

One of the problems with leader-follower buddy pairs is that they often result in perhaps the worst possible positioning—one buddy above and behind the other. The keys to staying together are:

- dive side-by-side
- stay on the same side for as much of the dive as possible
- head in an agreed-upon direction
- stay aware of each other.

Brightly colored dive gear greatly aids in visual recognition of your buddy and increases the distance from which you'll be able to recognize your buddy. If visibility is especially poor, a buddy line (a short line held by both buddies) may be used. You can also hold hands or wrists at anytime during a dive to keep track of each other without looking. Some divers hold a piece of the other diver's gear, such as a BC strap or gauge console, when the other diver needs both hands free.

**tip 11**

### **Monitor Air Consumption**

No two divers will use air at exactly the same rate. Returning from a dive based on the air supply of the person with the least air adds another sensible margin of safety. If there is a significant disparity in air consumption, using tanks with different capacities can balance time in the water. Other techniques that can be used to balance in-water time include the diver with less air staying shallower but still in sight; the diver with more air performing any activities that would increase air use, such as filling lift bags, moving objects or carrying gear.

A controversial technique used by regular buddies and dive guides is to have the diver with less air breathe from one of the other diver's regulators as they swim side-by-side, holding hands. This nonemergency air sharing can be used to prolong a dive, make a safety stop, or swim under water back to the exit point. Those who oppose this technique believe that alternate air sources should be used only during emergencies, that recreational divers are not skilled enough to share air safely, and that it causes two divers to be low on air rather than one. However, those who use this technique believe that when used properly, it can improve safety and enjoyment by keeping divers under water where they belong, while also providing skill practice. When using this technique, the diver with

less air should have at least 500 psi, while the diver with more air should have more than 1,000 psi available.

### What to Do When There are Problems

No matter how long you dive, no matter your skill level or your buddy's, sooner or later you will encounter some underwater difficulty.

#### tip 12 Separation

If you become separated from your buddy under water, stop, look around, rise a few feet, look around again, turn to the side your buddy was on and keep looking while backtracking slowly. Listen and watch for bubbles or a sound signal. Try signaling your buddy. If in a short period of time you have not located your buddy, slowly surface while continuing to look around. If you both follow this procedure, you will meet at the surface. If your buddy does not surface and cannot be located by bubbles at the surface, initiate emergency procedures for a lost diver.

How long should you look under water? Most textbooks say one minute, a few say 30 seconds or two minutes. In real life, most divers take more time looking than textbooks recommend.

Another significant concern is that it may not be prudent to surface to look for your buddy if there is an overhead obstruction (cave, wreck or ice diving), if you're in strong currents (drift diving), if you're in an area of boat traffic, or if you need to decompress. In these cases another procedure is called for, such as meeting at an agreed-upon place under water.

#### tip 13 Emergencies

An important part of being a good buddy is rendering assistance when difficulties occur so that they don't escalate into an emergency. For example, one buddy becomes low on air during a dive that requires a slow ascent and safety stop. The best procedure is to share air before the low-on-air diver is out of air so that the ascent and safety stop can be made under control. Of course, this procedure requires a contingency agreement before the dive as to which regulator will be passed and how.

The same concept can be applied to underwater problem solving. When things get difficult, divers should stop, breathe easy, get under control, and then take deliberate action. With a buddy, these steps should be taken together. If the

action step does not solve the problem while still under water, then it is time to surface slowly and under control. On the surface, the diver experiencing the difficulty should establish positive buoyancy, first by use of the BC or, as a last resort, by ditching weights. This is where you as a buddy come in: If your buddy is not taking correct or timely

### Quiz Answers

1. Increase awareness with a touch or glance.
2. Use brightly colored gear to stay together.
3. Use an underwater slate for clear communication.
4. Learn to read each other's gauges.
5. Reduce stress by alternating front and back swimming.
6. Share air when you have to.

action, then you should move in and take action.

In the end, the ultimate test of a great buddy relationship may be a rescue, but the great joy of buddy diving is the shared experience. ☺

*Jon Hardy, an active scuba instructor for 37 years, has conducted instructor training for NAUI, PADI and SSI.*

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# High Anxiety

By Samuel Shelanski, M.D.

**H**ave you ever panicked under water? Has your heart ever pounded so hard that you felt like you couldn't get enough air? Have you been so disoriented that you didn't know which way was up? Because of some stress—you were low on air,

a great white was staring you down—have you ever lost control and acted irrationally? If so, then you're not alone. According to a recent study out of the Sport Psychology Lab at the

University of Wisconsin, more than half of experienced divers surveyed said that they had experienced panic or near-panic while diving.

Dr. William Morgan's study, published in the December 1995 issue of *Sports Medicine*, suggests that for divers, mental fitness may be at least as important as physical fitness. The study also raises some serious questions: Do certifying agencies adequately address the dangers of diver panic? Can divers and

**A new study takes a hard look at the issue of diver panic.**

## AVOIDING PANIC

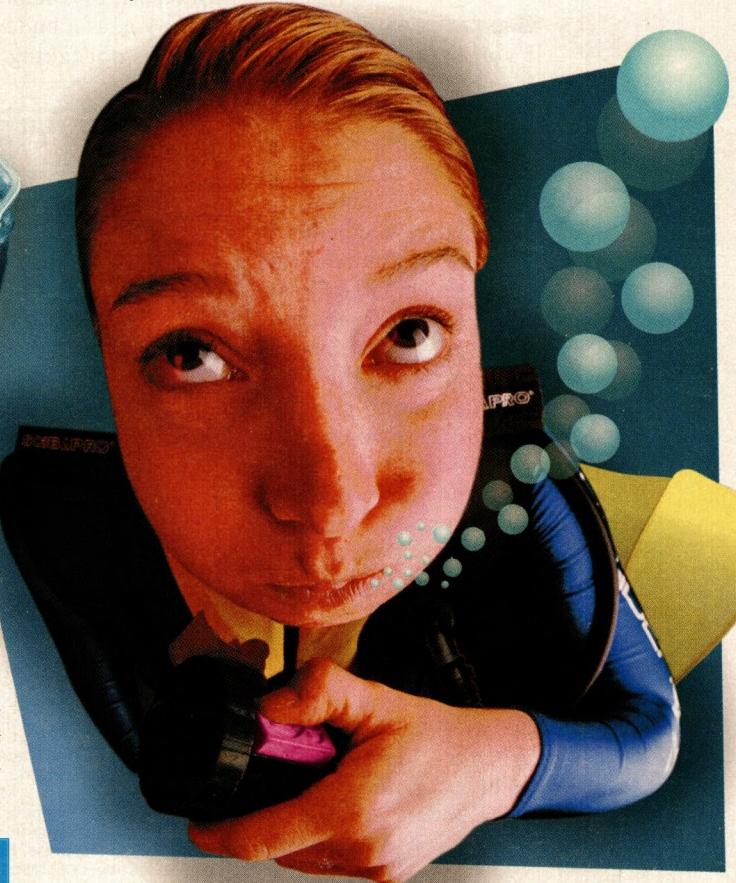
There are some underwater situations that would cause any diver to panic. Turning around to find yourself face-to-face with a great white springs to mind. However, there are ways to minimize the risk of ending up in a situation that might result in a panicked response.

► **DON'T DIVE BEYOND YOUR CAPABILITIES.** Make sure that you are experienced enough to make the dive you're planning. A buddy's training does not replace the need for your own.

► **AVOID GETTING INTO A SITUATION THAT YOU'RE NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE.** Don't try to squeeze in that last dive at dusk, unless you're prepared to finish it as a night dive. And if you don't have the proper equipment to make a certain dive, such as a wreck penetration, don't try to fudge it and make do with what you've got. It's better to pass on the dive and do it another day.

► **STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR TRAINING.** When was the last time that you practiced buddy breathing? How about a ditch and don? Cleared your mask? For too many of us, it was when we got certified, which may have been many years ago. It's important to stay current with skills, and to practice skills that are appropriate to the type of diving you're doing.

► **DON'T DIVE IF IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.** You may be eminently qualified to make the dive you've planned. You may have done it 20 times before, but if something doesn't feel right when it's time to get into the water, don't. Don't let your ego get in the way of safety. Pass on the dive, and make sure you're around to do it another day.



potential divers who are prone to panic be identified and treated?

## The Consequences

There is little question that panic strikes divers, occasionally with catastrophic effects. Many experts, including Dr. Carl Edmonds, author of *Diving and Subaquatic Medicine*, believe that panic is the leading cause of diving fatalities.

The National Underwater Accident Data Center (NUADC) attributes 19 percent of the scuba deaths from 1976 to 1988 to panic, with another 22 percent resulting from unknown causes. Many divers whose deaths have been attributed to drowning are found with adequate air in their tanks and no obvious problem with their equipment. It is thought that a large number of these fatalities are the result of panic attacks.

Panic is also implicated in many cases of arterial gas embolism (AGE). AGE results almost exclusively from rapid, often uncontrolled ascents. While a small number of these cases are the product of inadequate training or equipment malfunction, the vast majority are divers who make panicked beelines for the surface.

## **Are You Adequately Trained?**

With panic being of such concern to divers, it seems natural that it would be covered in-depth during certification courses. Morgan, however, says that's not the case. He contends that the major certifying agencies have downplayed the risks associated with diving as part of the growing commercialization of the sport. As a result, Morgan says, many people who never would have taken up diving 20 years ago—when it was still considered something of an extreme sport—have flocked to their local dive shops.

Both PADI and NAUI refute Morgan's claims that they ignore the issue of panic in their training. PADI issued a two-and-a-half page response to the study, which questions many of the points raised by Morgan and points out that PADI's *Open Water Diver Manual* and *Rescue Diver Manual*, as well as their accompanying videos, specifically discuss panic and its associated hazards.

## **Can We Test for Panic?**

While diving is significantly safer now than it was at its inception, there are still some very real risks every time someone enters the marine environment. It's only realistic to assume that some of the vast number of divers who have entered the sport over the past several years are mentally less well-equipped to cope with potential problems under water, and therefore may be more prone to panic than their predecessors.

Is there any way to identify which divers are at higher risk of panic attacks? According to Morgan, there is. He claims that divers who score significantly higher than other divers on a test that measures "trait anxiety" are potentially at greater risk of panic attacks while diving. Trait anxiety is regarded as an enduring feature of an individual's personality, whereas "state anxiety" is situational. Tests that measure anxiety, Morgan says, make it possible to predict panic behavior in beginning divers with 88 percent accuracy.

Should we be screening for these traits in divers? Most certifying agencies require medical clearance prior to allowing an individual to start a certification course. Should this now include a psychological profile?

Probably not. Divers in the study who were identified as being at higher risk of panic attacks were not people with clinical mental illnesses, they simply had a

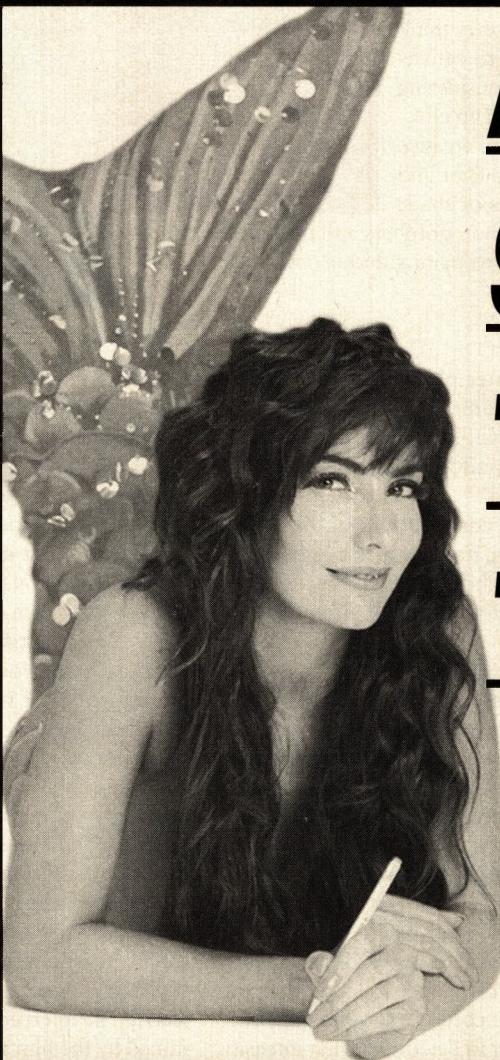
higher anxiety level than other divers. Excluding them from diving on this ground would be extraordinarily difficult, if not illegal.

So what can be done to address the issues that Morgan raises? At the professional level, instructors must be trained to recognize divers who exhibit high levels of anxiety, and to recommend further training or deny certification to these divers. On an individual level, divers must be aware of the risks associated with diving and be able to make an honest assessment of their per-

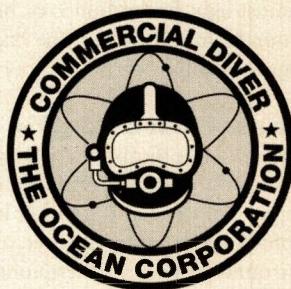
sonal anxiety level and how it might change in case of a high-stress situation under water. Research such as Morgan's may eventually provide a tool for divers to be able to assess their own risk for panic and for instructors to know more about their students in relation to this often undiagnosed and unrecognized problem. ☐

*Questions for Dr. Shelanski should be addressed to RSD, Dive Medicine, 6600 Abercorn St., Suite 208, Savannah, GA 31405; e-mail RSDmgzn@aol.com.*

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# Surefire Exposures

*Text and photography by Franklin J. Viola*

**N**o painter worth his weight in burnt sienna would ever think of putting a brush to canvas without carefully considering how to use tone and contrast to build an effective composition. Similarly, the key to creative photography is learning how to read light and then use it to create varying degrees of shade and shadow. Like good painters, photographers enhance their images with contrast, and use light to paint subjects onto their celluloid canvases.

## Available Light

Available light, for most underwater photographers, strictly means "sunlight." But as they become more advanced, most photographers soon learn that available light comes in an assortment of intensities that can add drama or subtlety to every subject or scene.

There are two ways to build contrast in a photograph: with color and with shade. Unfortunately, available light under water is monochromatic, like the light in black and white photography. As a result, the color of the subject often appears nearly the same as the background.

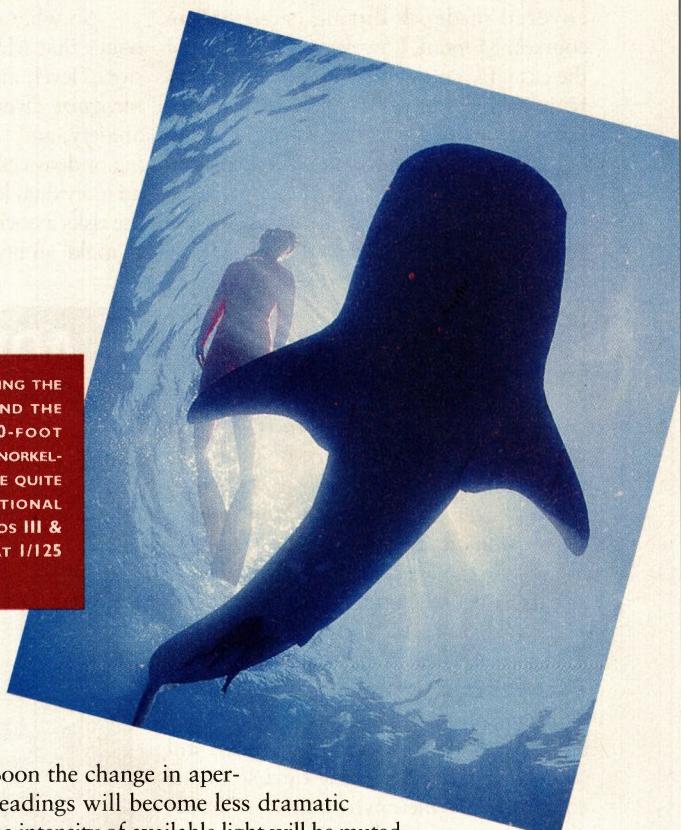
You may be able to see color contrast under water, but your film rarely will. Therefore, the best way to build contrast is with shadow and shade. This means placing dark subjects against light backgrounds or bright subjects against dark backgrounds. In most cases, the background in available light photographs will be (or should be) open water.

## Available-Light Exposures

The most significant factor in available-light photographs is the position of the sun. With the sun at your back, a subject will appear lighter than the darker background water. If the sun is in front of your camera lens, the subject will appear darker than the surrounding water. Determining the correct exposure for either kind of photograph requires you first to determine what intensity of water color will build contrast most effectively.

Upon entering the water, look at the intensity of available light beginning at the surface and filtering down toward the bottom. You should be able to see defined layers—bands of blue and green shades—shading from light to dark as you descend through the water column. With your light meter parallel to the surface, examine the exposure value of each unique layer as you pass through it. Aperture readings near the surface will be quite small, but this intensity will fall off quickly after you descend only a few

**Silhouette** - BY PLACING THE STREAKING SUN RAYS BEHIND THE BOLD OUTLINE OF THIS 20-FOOT WHALE SHARK AND A LONE SNORKELER, THE FINAL IMAGE BECAME QUITE DRAMATIC WITHOUT ADDITIONAL LIGHTING. CAMERA: NIKONOS III & 15MM LENS. EXPOSURE: F/8 AT 1/125 SEC. ON ISO 100 FILM.



feet. Soon the change in aperture readings will become less dramatic and the intensity of available light will be muted.

Deciding which exposure reading to use is largely determined by where your subject is located. Most underwater photographers have been taught to get deeper than their subject and "shoot up," but choosing an exposure setting by metering the sun's intensity on the surface and then shooting a subject occupying space much deeper will simply bury it in an abyss of black.

When metering background water, choose an exposure that contrasts with your subject, but also produces the quality and intensity of color you desire. If you're using a housed SLR, set the in-camera meter to "spot" (if available) or "center-weight." This will allow you to pinpoint a specific area of water rather than obtaining an overall average reading as rendered by matrix metering. Be sure to set your camera's exposure mode to manual so that it does not automatically reset the exposure each time you recompose the picture. Because the Nikonos' built-in light meter is weighted center to bottom-center, point the lens so its midpoint is just slightly lower than the water color you wish to capture. Choose a shutter speed fast enough to prevent camera shake (1/30 or 1/60 sec. for scenes, 1/125 sec. or faster for moving subjects). The aperture setting (f-stop) in your meter will be determined by the film speed (ISO) and shutter speed.

## Silhouettes

If the bold outline of a subject is highly recognizable, yet dramatic enough to stand alone without cosmetic detail, why light it? Underwater silhouettes are the easiest images to produce and some of the most visually interesting. For the best results, try shooting one on a bright sunny day while in sight of the surface. Place your subject directly between the sun and your lens. This will underexpose the subject, making it appear very dark against the bright

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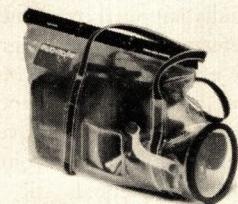
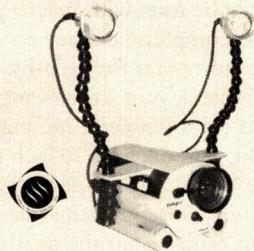
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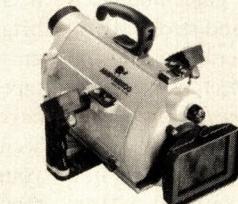
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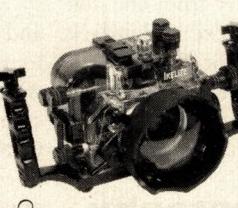
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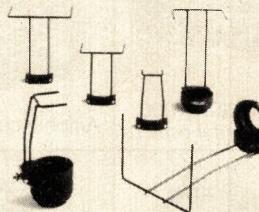
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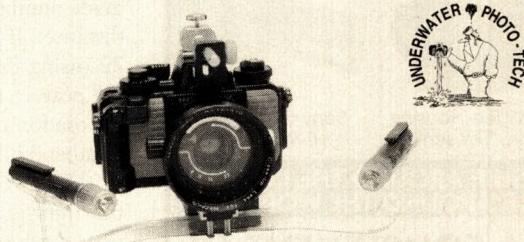
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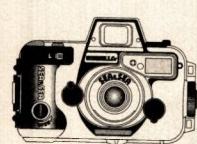
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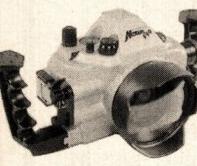
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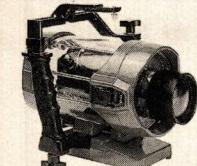
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background. If you're using a camera meter, be sure to read the light about 15 to 20 degrees to one side of the sun.

Photographers without camera meters can apply the "sunny 16 rule" to shooting silhouettes. In bright sunlight, simply set the lens aperture to f/16. Determining the shutter speed is easy since it is approximately equal to your film speed (shutter speed equals 1/ISO to the nearest camera setting). Using a film with a speed of ISO 100, the shutter speed (1/100) would be 1/125 sec., the closest setting. The "sunny 16 rule" provides a good starting point from which to bracket (alter the exposure by changing the aperture in half f-stop increments) our shots. Higher shutter speeds (1/125 sec. or faster) will also freeze streaking sun rays and make silhouettes more dramatic.

### Artificial Light

To put color back into underwater photography, we depend on artificial light. The key to using a strobe as your primary light source under water is to understand that the exposure is determined solely by strobe-to-subject distance and not by camera-to-subject distance.

One way to determine how much light a strobe will put out at a given distance is by using the strobe's guide number. Guide numbers, usually supplied by the manufacturer, are determined by the brightness of the strobe at a particular power setting and film speed. Guide numbers will tell you what aperture setting to use when a subject is a certain number of feet away from your strobe (f-stop equals guide number divided by strobe-to-subject distance). If your strobe's guide number is 32 (using ISO 100 film and strobe set on full power), then what aperture would you choose for a subject two feet away? Guide number 32 divided by 2 feet equals f/16.

This formula works great topside, but light is absorbed and dispersed in a nongeometric fashion under water. Besides the obvious loss of light due to depth, guide numbers vary from one diving environment to the next. Cold, dark water can eat a full f-stop or more of light compared to warm, tropical water. Few submersible strobes have an effective range beyond eight feet under water.

### Macro Photography

The best way to determine the power output of your strobe is to conduct your own test, starting with macro photography. Here, your strobe is the primary (and most likely the only) source of light. The

best place to test is in the same environment where you will be diving. However, a swimming pool will suffice as long as your subjects are not resting on the highly reflective bottom. Two milk crates stacked on end and covered with a dark towel (to absorb light) work extremely well as an artificial reef.

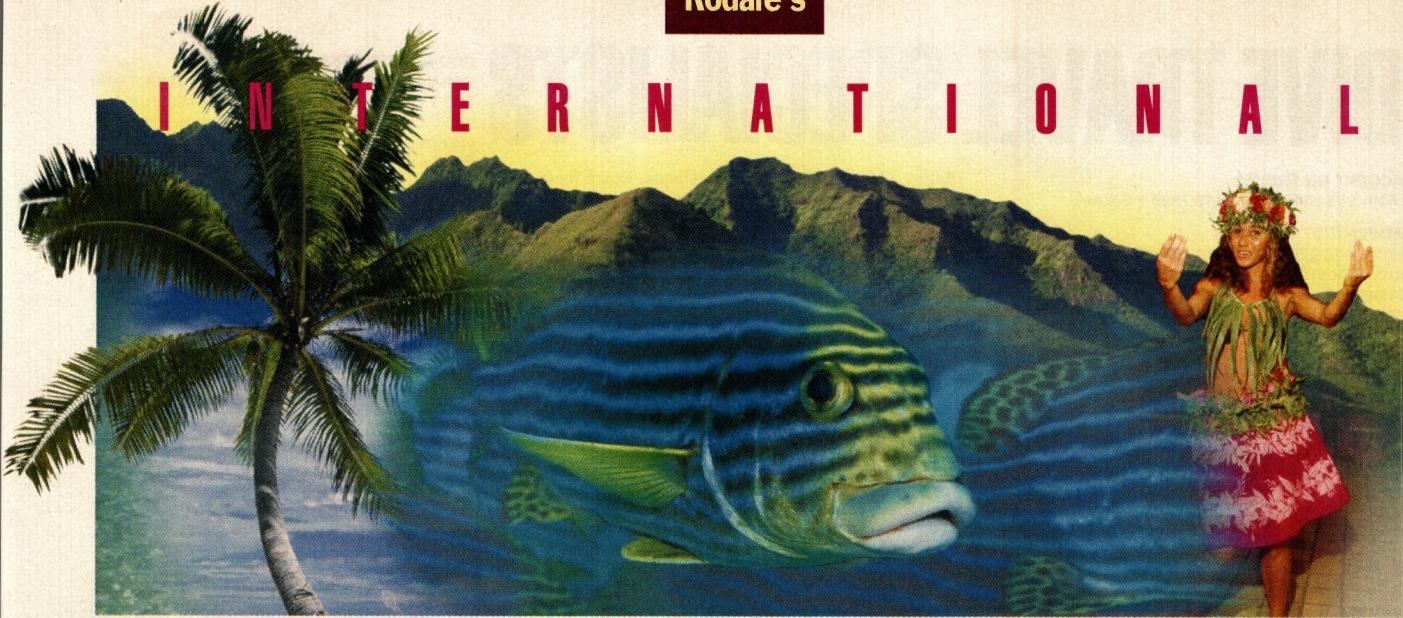
Using either a housed SLR or a submersible camera with a 1:3 extension tube (or a close-up kit), choose the fastest shutter speed that the camera will synchronize with the strobe (1/60 sec. for older cameras, 1/250 for newer SLRs) and set the lens to its smallest aperture (usually, f/22 or f/32). Place the strobe one foot away from your subject and shoot a frame. Record the exposure (film, aperture, shutter speed, strobe power and distance) on a slate and then bracket the next exposure by opening the lens one-half f-stop (f/16.5 from f/22). Bracket and record each exposure down through f/8. Next, run the test again, this time with your strobe-to-subject distance set at two feet. Continue testing up to a strobe-to-subject distance of three feet. Finally, run your entire test again on another subject that is lighter or darker than your first subject.

### Wide-Angle Photography

Once your strobe tests with macro photography are complete, change to your widest lens and repeat the step-by-step procedure. To check your strobe's angle of coverage and color temperature, make a color card. Buy a 16-inch by 20-inch plastic "For Sale" sign, and divide the white back into four quadrants using one-inch masking tape. Spray paint the quadrants bright red, yellow, blue and 18 percent gray, respectively. Remove the masking tape to provide some white on your color card. Have a buddy hold it or simply secure it to your artificial reef. Conduct your tests out to a strobe-to-subject distance of six feet (eight or more if you wish) and through an aperture setting of f/2.8.

View all the test film on a light table and check for sharpness with at least a 4x loupe. Compare the exposures and note which aperture/strobe-to-subject distance combinations produced the best results. Compile this information into a simple-to-read exposure guide, laminate it and affix it to the side of your strobe.

**Next month:** Field Editor Franklin Viola, a recipient of a BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year award, discusses the use and abuse of TTL.



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# LIVE-ABOARDS

**T**oday we live in what some dive travel specialists call "The Golden Age of Live-aboard Diving." The phrase refers to the evolution of these dedicated dive boats from bare-bones expedition vessels of the 1960s that offered great diving but a rugged life of hard bunks, Cration food and toilets that . . . well, never mind. In contrast, today's luxury boats are mini-Princess cruisers with air-conditioned private suites, valet service, gourmet meals, wine lists and, of course, great diving.

## Australia

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**AIRLIE BEACH, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6179-4677446 •** Dives the Great Barrier Reef. 85 feet, 8 cabins, 5 heads, 2 on-board compressors. Professional crew, offers specialty courses. Booking office: Oceania Dive, (800) 075-035 (Australia only). Best package: Advanced course, including gear, \$485. Call for other packages.

### AURIGA BAY II

**MANUNDA, QUEENSLAND • (800) 443-0790, (011) 6170-581408 •** Dives the far northern Great Barrier Reef, Ribbon Reefs and northern and central Coral Sea. 58 feet, 5 double cabins, 10 divers max. Experienced staff. Booking offices: Adventure Express, Inter-Ocean Tours, International Dive Expeditions. Best package: 8 days, 7 nights, \$1,475.

### ELIZABETH E II

**MACKAY, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6179-574281 •** Dives the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef. 108 feet, 13 cabins. Specializes in long-range trips. Booking office: See & Sea Travel.

**ESPERANCE STAR**  
**MILTON, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6173-3683766 •** Dives southern Great Barrier Reef and Moreton Bay. Comfortable, air-conditioned 60-foot vessel with 5 double cabins. Booking office: Pro Dive Travel, (011) 6122-649494. Best package: 2 days, 2 nights (weekends), meals, air, unlimited diving, \$AUS215.

### FALIE

Dives remote reefs of South Australia. 150 feet, 12 passengers max. Three heads and showers. Booking office: See & Sea Travel. Best package: 10-day cruise, \$3,995.

### KALINDA/PRO DIVE CAIRNS

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6170-315255 •** Dives outer Great Barrier Reef. 85 feet, 10 cabins. Exclusive moorings, experienced crew. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions. Best package: 3-day, 2-night live-aboard cruise, meals, equipment, 11 dives, hotel transfers, reef tax, \$AUS375.

### RONNIE CLARE/OFF THE EDGE ADVENTURES

**PORT LINCOLN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA •** Dives the Port Lincoln, South Australia area. 74 feet, 12 passengers max. Great white shark expeditions. Booking office: International Diving Expeditions. Packages including diving and meals, from \$3,500.

### NIMROD III

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6170-315566 •** Dives northern Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea. 70- by 26-foot steel-hulled catamaran, 5 air-conditioned cabins, private bathrooms. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 4 nights, 12 dives, meals, gear, flight over the reef, \$AUS800 per person in quad. occ. cabin.

### PACIFIC STAR

**WHITSUNDAY, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6179-466383 •** Dives Coral Sea. 60-foot catamaran, 6 cabins. Caters to small groups, offers personal service. Booking offices: Oz Dive, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 8 days/7 nights, \$2,320 per person.

### PRO-DIVE TOWNSVILLE

**TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6177-211760 •** Dives the Great Barrier Reef including the Yongala. PADI 5-star facility, live-aboard trips. Booking office: Pro Dive Trav-

el, (011) 6122-649499. Best package: 3 days/2 nights, 9 dives, \$375.

### REEF EXPLORER

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6170-939113 • reefies@ozemail.com.au •** Dives the far northern Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea. 65-foot boat, 5 cabins. Caters to small groups, offers off-the-beaten-track diving for experienced divers and private charters. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Dive Discovery, Adventure Express, Tropical Adventures Travel, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel. Best package: 12 days, 11 nights, all-inclusive, \$2,995 (April-Aug.).

### RUM RUNNER I

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (800) 803-183 (Australia only), (011) 6170-521088 •** Dives the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef. 69 feet, 6 cabins. Visits remote diving areas, caters to small groups. Booking office: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel. All-inclusive package, \$AUS535.

### RUM RUNNER III

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (800) 803-183 (Australia only), (011) 6170-521088 •** Dives the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef. 69 feet, 9 cabins. Visits remote diving areas, caters to small groups. Booking office: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel. All-inclusive package, \$AUS535.

### S/V ATLANTIC CLIPPER/DOWN UNDER DIVE

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6170-311288 • e-mail: dudive@ozemail.com.au • Internet: http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dudive •** Dives the northern Great Barrier Reef. 140-foot sailing tall ship with 16 air-conditioned cabins. Booking offices: Adventure Express, Oz Dive. Best package: 3 days, 2 nights, all-inclusive package, \$AUS355.

### SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

**PYRMONT, NEW SOUTH WALES • (011) 6125-526300 •** Dives Coral Sea and Torres Straits. 115-foot luxury cruiser, 11 en suite cabins, 24 passengers max. Booking office: Oz Dive. Charter basis only, call for details.

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**TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND • (800) 952-4319, (011) 6177-723022 • e-mail: MikeBall@t140.aone.net.au • Internet: http://www.infoweb.com.au/mike\_ball •** Dives the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Cod Hole, Yongala. 100 feet, 14 cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expe-



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ditions, Mike Ball Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages from \$267 to \$3,442.

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**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6170-315255** • Dives outer Great Barrier Reef. 85 feet, 5 cabins. Exclusive moorings, experienced crew. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions. Best package: 3-day, 2-night live-aboard cruise to the outer reef, meals, equipment, 11 dives, hotel transfers, reef tax, \$AUS375.

### SUPERSPORT/MIKE BALL DIVE EXPEDITIONS

**TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND • (800) 952-4319, (011) 6177-723022** • e-mail: [MikeBall@t140.aone.net.au](mailto:MikeBall@t140.aone.net.au) • Internet: [http://www.infoweb.com.au/mike\\_ball](http://www.infoweb.com.au/mike_ball) • Dives the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Cod Hole, Yonagala, 90 feet, 15 cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Mike Ball Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages from \$267 to \$3,442.

### SYDNEY SUNDANCER

**ROSE BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES • (011) 6123-710135** • Dives the Whitsunday Islands. Private 54-foot yacht caters to divers with nondiving companions. Offers gourmet-style meals. Booking office: Oz Dive. July through October, departs Hamilton Island each Saturday, from \$1,120 for 1-week cruise.

### TAKA II

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (800) 241-7690, (011) 6170-518722** • e-mail: [takadive@ozemail.com.au](mailto:takadive@ozemail.com.au) • Internet: <http://ozemail.com.au/~takadive> • Dives the Great Barrier Reef, Cod Hole and the Coral Sea. 72 feet, 10 cabins. Specializes in underwater photography. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Oz Dive, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best packages: 4 days, 3 nights, from \$450; 5 days, 4 nights, from \$500.

### TAKA III

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (800) 241-7690, (011) 6170-518722** • e-mail: [takadive@ozemail.com.au](mailto:takadive@ozemail.com.au) • Internet: <http://ozemail.com.au/~takadive> • Dives the Great Barrier Reef, Cod Hole and the Coral Sea. 93 feet, 13 cabins. Specializes in underwater photography. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Oz Dive, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best packages: 4 days/3 nights, from \$450. 5 days/4 nights, from \$500.

### TRUE NORTH

Dives with whale sharks in Rowley Shoals, Western Australia, U.S. Navy pier in Exmouth. 70 feet, 10 passengers max., 5 cabins. Spotter plane employed to find whale sharks. Booking office: See & Sea Travel. Best package: 7-day cruise, \$2,970 per person.

### UNDERSEA EXPLORER

**CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND • (011) 6170-514777** • e-mail: [adventures@adventures.com.au](mailto:adventures@adventures.com.au) • Dives the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea. 80-foot boat, 11 cabins. Guest participation on research trips. Booking offices: Inter-Ocean Tours, Rothschild Travel, Dive Discovery, Oz Dive or Boulder Scuba Tours, (303) 449-8617. Best package: 7-day Coral Sea trip, \$1,160.

### WATERSPORT/MIKE BALL DIVE EXPEDITIONS

**TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND • (800) 952-4319, (011) 6177-723022** • e-mail: [MikeBall@t140.aone.net.au](mailto:MikeBall@t140.aone.net.au) • Internet: [http://www.infoweb.com.au/mike\\_ball](http://www.infoweb.com.au/mike_ball) • Dives the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Cod Hole, Yonagala. 70 feet, 8 cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Mike Ball Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages including diving and meals, from \$267 to \$3,442.

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**(800) 234-8464, (305) 921-7798** • Dives the entire Bahama chain. 90-foot boat, 14 cabins, 22-knot speed, stable design, 6 heads. 7-day, 6-night charter, \$1,295.

### CAT PPALU

**NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE • (800) 327-9600, (305) 888-1226** • Dives the Exumas and Eleuthera Island. 65-foot catamaran, spacious accommodations, gourmet cuisine, custom diving and island eco-tours. All-inclusive week, \$1,195 per person.

### DREAM II

**(800) 741-5335, (407) 768-9859** • Dives Grand Bahama. 60-foot boat, 2 cabins. Specializes in snorkeling trips, 10/12 passengers max., emphasis on marine ecology. Week-long cruise including taxes, port fee, \$945 and up.

## M/V BALLYMENA

**NASSAU, BAHAMAS • (800) 241-4591, (809) 394-0951** • Dives Bahama Out Islands, including Exuma Cays, Andros, Cat Island, San Salvador, Conception Island, Rum Cay, Long Island and Crooked Island. 124-foot vessel with 10 double staterooms, each with private bath and individually controlled A/C. Offers a variety of activities besides diving. Best packages: 7 days/6 nights, \$1,995; 4 days/3 nights, \$1,000.

### NEKTON PILOT/NEKTON DIVING CRUISES

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA • (800) 899-6753, (954) 463-9324** • e-mail: [nekton@gate.net](mailto:nekton@gate.net) • Internet: <http://www.gate.net/~nekton> • Dives Cay Sal Bank, San Salvador, Rum Cay, Conception Island, Freeport, Bimini and Gingerbread Grounds. SWATH design, elevating dive platform and private cabins with baths. \$1,350.

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**BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA • (800) 717-CHARTER, (912) 264-1700** • Dives the Bahamas, primarily in the Abacos. 52-foot air-conditioned power yacht with 3 double cabins. Personalized, professional services to small groups. All-inclusive dive packages: \$1,050 per person, per week (diver), \$800 per person, per week (nondiver).

### R/V SEA DRAGON

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### Bay Islands, Honduras

#### BAY ISLANDS AGGRESSOR

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**ROATAN • (800) 874-7636, (409) 765-1776** • Dives Bay Islands. Family-owned and operated, built by divers for divers, 70 percent return rate. Booking offices: Caribbean Adventures; World Dive Adventures, (800) 934-3483; Roatan Charter, (800) 282-8932. Up to 12 guests can stay in 6 cabins with 3 guest bathrooms. All-inclusive except for alcohol and soft drinks, 8 days/7 nights, unlimited diving, 5 meals a day, \$1,195 per person.

#### WIND DANCER/PETER HUGHES

**CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA • (800) 9-DANCER, (305) 669-9391** • e-mail: [dancer@winnet.net](mailto:dancer@winnet.net) • Internet: <http://www.winnet.net/dancer/> • Dives Bay Islands, including Roatan, Utila, Guanaja, Cayos Cochinos, Barabara. 120-foot vessel, 10 cabins, 20 passengers max., private baths. Deluxe accommodations. Booking offices: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: All-inclusive, 7 days, \$1,195.

#### Belize

#### BELIZE AGGRESSOR III

**MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA • (800) 348-2628, (504) 385-2628** • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives Turneffe Atoll, Lighthouse Reef and Blue Hole. 110-foot boat, 8 cabins. Emphasis on service, consistency throughout Aggressor Fleet. Booking offices: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, all-inclusive except for airfare, \$1,495 per person.

#### REMBRANDT VAN RIJN

Dives Belize. 184-foot three-mast topsail schooner, 16 cabins. Booking office: International Diving Expeditions. Best package: \$1,245 for 1-week cruise.

#### TORTUGA DIVE CENTRE

**SAN PEDRO TOWN, AMBERGRIS CAYE • (011) 501-262804/2802** • 45-foot live-aboard with 2 cabins. Offers fully certified guides, new equipment and offshore trips.

#### WAVE DANCER/PETER HUGHES

**CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA • (800) 9-DANCER, (305) 669-9391** • e-mail: [dancer@winnet.net](mailto:dancer@winnet.net) • Internet: <http://www.winnet.net/dancer/> • Dives Belize, including Lighthouse Reef and Turneffe Islands. 120-foot vessel with 10 cabins, 20 passengers max. All private baths, luxury accommodations. Booking offices: Reef &

Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,495.

## British Columbia, Canada

### EMERALD SEA ADVENTURES

**(604) 271-DIVE** • e-mail: [scuba@mindlink.bc.ca](mailto:scuba@mindlink.bc.ca) • Internet: <http://mindlink.bc.ca/scuba/> • Dives southern Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and special excursions on request. Small, private charter (4 to 5 divers max.), custom-tailored itineraries. Best package: Fri. night to Sun. evening, air, meals, snacks, \$CAN350.

### LADY GOODIVER

**SURREY • (604) 931-6584** • Internet: <http://www.3routes.com/scuba/LGDiv.html> • Dives vary depending on season: Gulf Islands (Jan.-March; Oct. 20-Dec.), Port Hardy (April-May; Aug. 20-Oct. 15), Tofino (June-July) and Barkley Sound (Aug. 1-15). 110-foot vessel, 3 cabins with 8 private bunks, 12 divers max., ample room for lounging, gear, cameras, kayaks, etc., 26-foot dive tender. Booking office: Deep Cove Dive Shop, (604) 929-3116/3424. Best package: Diving, air, meals, accommodations, taxes, \$CAN149 per person, dbl. occ.

### NAUTILUS VII

**(604) 657-7614** • Dives Gulf Islands, Campbell River and Port Hardy. 85-foot live-aboard with 7 staterooms, 7 heads, 20 divers max. Board at night and be at dive site in the morning. Booking office: All Around Travel, (800) 433-2423. Best package: All-inclusive package, tax included, \$130 per person, per day. Premium service, \$175 per person, per day.

### RENDEVOUS DIVE VENTURES, LTD.

**(604) 724-8601/0181** • Dives Barkley Sound on Vancouver Island's west coast. Emphasis on diving services with over 20 years of diving experience. Best package: \$150 per day.

### SEA VENTURER

**NANAIMO • (604) 756-0544** • e-mail: [extasea@island.net](mailto:extasea@island.net) • Dives Vancouver Island, Port Hardy, Barkley Sound, Gulf Islands. 25 years experience, knowledgeable staff, 53-foot vessel, 22-foot dive tender. Booking office: Dolphin Travel, (800) 856-5355 or (604) 248-6124. Best package: \$CAN175 per day.

### SERIOUS DIVERS ONLY (S.D.O.)

**NANAIMO • (604) 751-8920** • e-mail: [cetacea@nanaimo.ark.com](mailto:cetacea@nanaimo.ark.com) • Dives British Columbia, from Gulf Islands to Port Hardy. Offers scientific research diver and technical diver course. Best package: 5-day live-aboard, all-inclusive, including scientific research diver course and underwater naturalist course, under \$1,000.

### SPIRIT OF THE PACIFIC

**PORT ALBERNI • (800) 547-1291, (604) 723-1291** • Dives the northeast, south and west of Vancouver Island. 70-foot boat with 5 guest cabins. Dive packages are all-inclusive and vary depending on length of stay.

## British Virgin Islands

### CUAN LAW

**ST. THOMAS, USVI • (800) 648-3393, (809) 494-2490** • Dives BVI's and the Leeward Islands. 105-foot by 44-foot trimaran, 10 cabins with twin or double beds (no bunks), each 110 square feet with private baths. Stable live-aboard experience. Booking office: Ocean Enterprises, (800) 648-3393. Best package: 7 days, all dives and other watersports, 3 meals a day, snacks, nonalcoholic beverages and beach barbecue, \$1,430.

### YACHT PROMENADE

**ST. THOMAS, USVI • (800) 526-5503, (809) 494-3853** • e-mail: [promcruz@caribsurf.com](mailto:promcruz@caribsurf.com) • Internet: <http://www.yachts-on-line.com/promenade> • Dives the British Virgin Islands. 65-foot vessel, 5 cabins, and experienced and professional dive services to scuba divers, their companions and families. Dive packages vary: 6 nights, 10 guests, including meals and liquor, from \$1,350 per person (nondivers, \$100 less); gear rental, \$90.

## California

### HORIZON CHARTERS

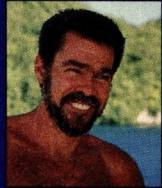
**SAN DIEGO • (619) 277-7823** • e-mail: [divesd@aol.com](mailto:divesd@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.earthwindow.com/horizon> • Dives the Channel Islands, Cortes Banks, Guadalupe Island and the San Benito Islands. The only live-aboards in San Diego and the only boats diving Guadalupe and San Benito Islands. Best package: 7 days and nights, meals and air fills, approx. \$1,050.

## Cayman Islands

### CAYMAN AGGRESSOR III

**MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA • (800) 348-2628, (504) 385-2628** • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives Grand and Little Cayman. 110 feet, 8 staterooms. Emphasis on service, consistency throughout Aggressor Fleet. Booking offices: See

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 The Waves  
 Dance Beyond  
 The Sea  
 And Its Waves  
 The Sun Rises As  
 The Sun Rises  
 The Wind Begins To  
 Dance Across  
 The Sea Creating  
 A Wave Beneath  
 The Sea  
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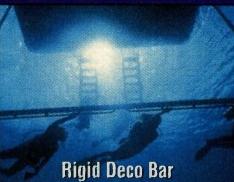
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Rigid Deco Bar

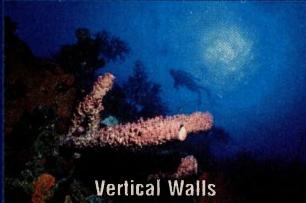


Room to Relax

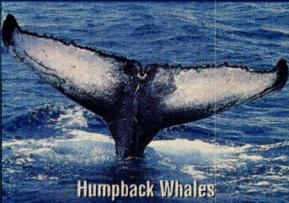
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Turks & Caicos Islands



Vertical Walls



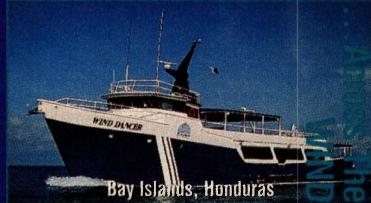
Humpback Whales



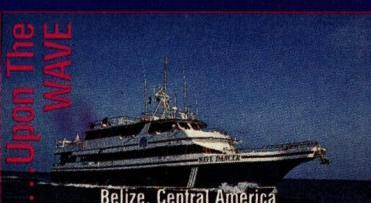
Schooling Fish



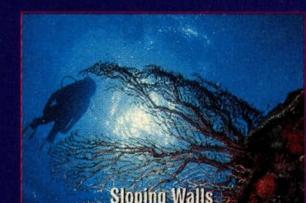
Sea Mounts



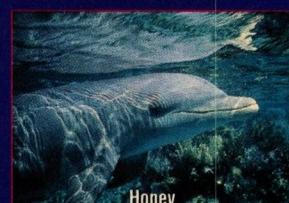
Bay Islands, Honduras



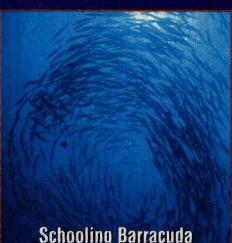
Belize, Central America



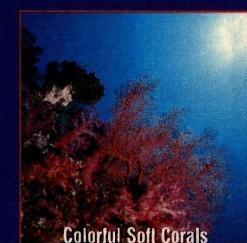
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## Live-Aboards

& Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, all-inclusive, \$1,495.

### LITTLE CAYMAN DIVER II

TAMPA, FLORIDA • (800) 544-2722, (800) 458-2722, (813) 962-2236 • Dives Little Cayman walls, Bloody Bay, Jackson Reef. 90-foot vessel, 5 cabins, each with private head and shower, 10 divers max. Best package: 1-week cruise: high season, \$1,595; low season, \$1,295.

### Cocos Island, Costa Rica

#### OKEANOS AGGRESSOR

MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA • (800) 348-2628, (504) 385-2628 • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives Cocos Island. 120 feet, 10 staterooms. Emphasis on service, consistency throughout Aggressor Fleet. Booking offices: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 10 days, all-inclusive except airfare and gratuities, \$2,695.

#### SEA HUNTER

Dives Cocos Island. 115-foot boat, 6 double cabins, 2 triple cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages vary. 10 days, \$2,795, including diving and meals.

### UNDERSEA HUNTER

Dives Cocos Island. 90-foot boat, 4 double cabins, 2 triple cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages vary. 10 days, \$2,795, including diving and meals.

### Eastern Caribbean

#### M/V CARIBBEAN EXPLORER

MILLS, WYOMING • (800) 322-3577, (307) 235-0683 • e-mail: [expven@coffey.com](mailto:expven@coffey.com) • Dives Saba and St. Kitts. 100-foot boat, 8 double cabins. Only live-aboard in area, offers island tours. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: Diving and meals, \$1,095.

### NEW FREEDOM

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA • (809) 460-1178 • Dives from the U.S. Virgin Islands to Grenada. 84-foot schooner with 4 double cabins, specializes in custom trips, fully equipped for diving. Best package: Yacht charter, \$16,000 per week for 8 people, all-inclusive.

### East Africa

#### KISIWI

Dives Pemba Island, North Zanzibar, East Africa. 67 feet, 5 cabins. Only live-aboard in this area of Africa. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 6 days, \$1,295.

### Fiji

#### BEQA PRINCESS PACIFIC HARBOUR

VITI LEVU • (011) 679-450188 • Dives Beqa Lagoon. 55 feet, 3 double cabins. Specializes in the natural habitat of Beqa Lagoon. Dive packages vary. Unlimited diving, 2 passengers min., all meals, \$200 per person, per day.

### MATAGI PRINCESS II

TAVEUNI • (800) 362-8244, (011) 679-880700 • e-mail: [Matagi@netilus.com](mailto:Matagi@netilus.com) • Dives Somo Somo Straits, Ringold Islands, Motui and Exploring Isles. 85-foot boat, 6 deluxe staterooms, 12 passengers max. Departs Matagi. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Inter-Ocean Tours, Island Dreams, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel, Poseidon Venture Tours. Best package: 8 days, \$2,065.

### NAI'A CRUISES FIJI

LAUNI • (011) 679-450382 • e-mail: [naia@is.com.fj](mailto:naia@is.com.fj) • Internet: <http://www.naia.com.fj> • Dives the Lomaiviti Group. 120-foot vessel, 9 cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$2,060.

### SERE-NI-WAI

LAMI • (011) 679-361171 • e-mail: [sere@ls.com.fj](mailto:sere@ls.com.fj) • Dives all of the Fiji islands. 101-foot custom-built boat, 5 double cabins. Customized itineraries. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$2,370.

### Galapagos, Ecuador

#### BELUGA

Dives the Galapagos, including Wolf and Darwin islands. 110 feet, 8 cabins. Deluxe accommodations. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 8 days, \$1,750.

### GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR I

MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA • (800) 348-2628, (504) 385-2628 • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives the Galapagos, including Cousins Rock, Punta Frei and Cabo Marshall. 80 feet, 7 cabins. Emphasis on service, consistency throughout Aggressor Fleet. Booking offices: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$2,195.

### GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR II

MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA • (800) 348-2628, (504) 385-2628 • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives the Galapagos, including Bajo de Gardner, Manzanillo, Devil's Crown, Rabidas Pinnacle and Cousins Rock. 80 feet, 7 cabins. Emphasis on service, consistency throughout Aggressor Fleet. Booking office: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$2,195.

### LAMMER LAW

ST. THOMAS, USVI • (809) 494-2490 • Dives the Galapagos, including Wolf and Darwin Islands. 95- by 42-foot sailing/motor trimaran, 9 cabins, each 110 sq. ft. with private bath. All cabins twin or double bed. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 8 days, all-inclusive, \$1,850.

### M/S SEA CLOUD

Dives the Galapagos Islands. 85-foot motor sailer, 4 staterooms, 8 divers max. 2 dive Zodiacs. Booking office: International Diving Expeditions. Best package: \$2,250 for 1-week cruise.

### M/Y CORAL STAR I

Dives the Galapagos Islands. 110 feet, 10 double cabins. Dive and land packages available. Booking office: International Diving Expeditions. Best package: \$1,600 for 1-week cruise.

### MISTRAL

Dives the Galapagos Islands. 74-foot boat, 6 staterooms, 12 divers max. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, See & Sea Travel.

### Hawaii

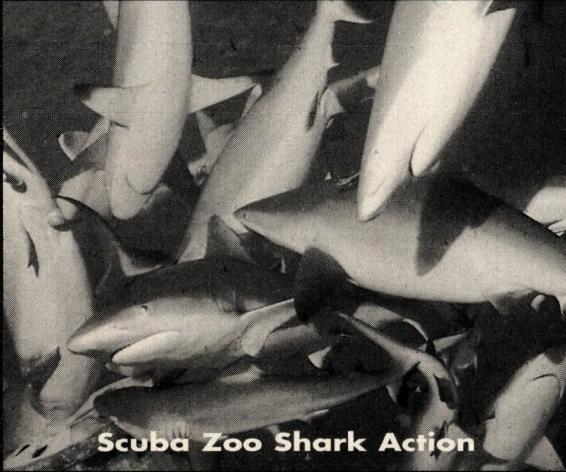
#### KONA AGGRESSOR II

KAILUA-KONA • (800) 348-2628 OR (800) 344-5662, (504) 385-2628 OR (808) 329-8182 • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives Kona Coast on the Big Island. 80-foot by 30-foot vessel, 5 staterooms, 10 passengers max. Emphasis on

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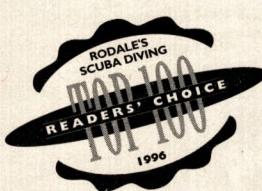
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### 6 DAYS

	PRO	STD	ECO	BUD
Jan-Jun	\$1,973	\$1,792	\$1,688	\$1,438
Jul-Dec	\$2,381	\$2,162	\$2,034	\$1,739

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Jan-Jul	\$2,302	\$2,094	\$1,969	\$1,677
Jul-Dec	\$2,618	\$2,374	\$2,237	\$1,904



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#### Indonesia

##### M/V BARUNA ADVENTURER

Dives the Nusa Tenggara Islands, Sunda, Komodo, 100-foot boat, 10 cabins. Some cabins have double beds. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages may vary. Best package: \$250 per day.

##### PINDITO

Internet: <http://www.maluku.com> • Dives Irian Jaya. 125-foot motor sailer, 8 air-conditioned double cabins. Offers scheduled departures 10 months of year. Booking offices: Maluku Adventures, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 12 days/11 nights, \$3,200 per person.

##### SONGLINE CRUISES

Internet: <http://www.maluku.com> • Dives Takabonerate Atoll, Selayar Islands and islands north of Manado. Offers charters for 2 or more persons. Booking office: Maluku Adventures. Best package: 4 days, 3 nights, 2 persons min., \$600 per person.

#### Malaysia

##### SPIRIT OF BORNEO

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH • (011) 603-253-0048 • Dives North Borneo Banks, Layang-Layang, Banda Sea, Ambon, Banda Islands. 120-foot boat, 11 cabins. Booking office: International Diving Expeditions. Best package: \$247 per night.

#### Maldives

##### KOI MALA

MALE • Dives the Maldives. 75-foot yacht, 6 cabins. All gear kept on dhow for entire trip. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,200.

##### M/V KEEMA

MALE • Dives 8 different atolls in the Maldives. 80-foot yacht, 6 cabins. Booking office: International Diving Expeditions. Best package: \$185 to \$200 per day.

##### MANTHRI

Dives the Maldives. 83 feet, 6 cabins. Deluxe accommodations. Booking offices: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 9 days, \$2,250.

##### SYLVESTER

Dives the Maldives. 16-passenger boat, air-conditioned. Booking office: See & Sea Travel. Call for rates.

#### Malpelo Island, Colombia

##### CORAL STAR

Dives Malpelo Island and Panama. 110-foot stable boat, 8 cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions; World Dive Adventures, (800) 433-3483.

##### INZAN TIGER

Dives Malpelo Island. 60-foot vessel, 2 suites, 4 passengers max. Booking office: See & Sea. Best package: 10-day cruise, \$3,195 per person.

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##### RIO RITA

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##### SOLMAR V

CABO SAN LUCAS • (800) 344-3349, (011) 52-114-3220 • Internet: <http://www.traveler.net/solmar> • Dives Sea of Cortez, from Cabo Pulmo to Las Animas Island, and Socorro Islands. 112-foot vessel, 12 cabins. Each cabin has private bath, shower, color TV and VCR. Booking offices: Cabo Resort Reservations, (800) 344-3349; International Diving Expeditions; Rohnert Park Dive Center, (707) 584-2323, (800) 675-3483; See & Sea Travel; Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,495.

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Chinchorro, Yucatan and Alacranes. 100-foot vessel, 7 cabins. Booking office: Barbachano Tours.

#### Palau

##### OCEAN HUNTER

Dives various sites throughout Palau. 60 feet, 3 cabins, 6 passengers max. Booking offices: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,995.

##### PALAU AGGRESSOR II

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 344-5662, (808) 329-8182 • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives various sites throughout Palau. 105-foot by 30-foot vessel, 16 passengers max. New boat. Emphasis on service, consistency throughout Aggressor Fleet. Booking offices: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 5 days, \$1,995.

##### PETER HUGHES/SUN DANCER

CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA • (800) 9-DANCER, (305) 669-9391 • e-mail: [dancer@winnet.net](mailto:dancer@winnet.net) • Internet:

<http://www.winnet.net/dancer/> • Dives various sites in Palau. 120-foot vessel with 8 cabins, 16 passengers max. Booking offices: See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel.

#### Papua New Guinea

##### FEBRINA

WALINDI PLANTATION • Dives the Bismarck Sea, Papua New Guinea. 72-foot boat, 6 cabins. Stable design, ties to moorings on reefs. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Tropical Adventures Travel.

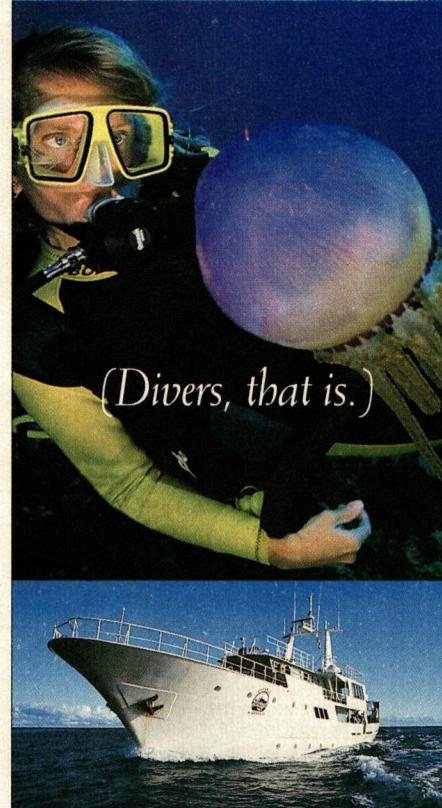
##### GOLDEN DAWN

PORTE MORESBY • (011) 675-256500 • Dives remote areas of Papua New Guinea. 80-foot boat, 5 cabins, 10 passengers. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, See & Sea Travel. Best package: \$297 per day.

##### M/V CHERTAN

ALOTAU • (011) 675-611167 • Dives wrecks and reefs of Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea. 60-foot boat, 6 double cabins, 14 passengers. Emphasis on underwater photography. 20-plus years experience in area. Booking offices:

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**ALOTAU, MILNE BAY** • (011) 6170-545401, (011) 675-611186 • e-mail: halstead@internorth.com.au • Dives Milne Bay, Solomon Sea, Papua New Guinea. 66-foot vessel with 5 double cabins. Emphasis on marine biology. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, See & Sea Travel, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 10 days, all meals, unlimited diving, transfers, \$2,970 per person.

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### FORTUNA II

Dives north and central Red Sea. 82 feet, 6 cabins. All private bathrooms. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,395.

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**SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT** • (011) 2062-600697 • Dives the Red Sea. 92 feet, 7 cabins. New boat, deluxe accommodations. Booking offices: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,495.

### GAZALA I

**SHARM-EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT** • (011) 2062-600697 • Dives northern Red Sea, including Ras Mohammed, Straits of Tiran, Thistlegorm. 82 feet, 6 cabins. Booking offices: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel, International Diving Expeditions. Best package: \$1,350 for 7 days.

### GAZALA VOYAGER

**SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT** • (011) 2062-600697 • Dives the Red Sea. 80 feet, 8 cabins. New boat, deluxe accommodations. Booking offices: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,495.

### M/V SEA SURVEYOR

**EILAT, ISRAEL** • (011) 9727-370337 • Dives Sinai, Sudan, Yemen, Djibouti, Eritrea, southern Egypt. 115-foot vessel with 9 cabins, 18 divers max; nitrox, unlimited freshwater and E-6 processing. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel. Best package: 7 nights, unlimited diving, \$1,540.

### FANTASEA II

**Egypt** • (800) 390-DIVE, (310) 571-7155/7156 • e-

mail: fantasea@actcom.co.il • Dives Red Sea, Aldabra Atoll and the Seychelles Islands. 115 feet, 6 guest cabins. Deluxe accommodations. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 10 days, \$3,500.

## Solomon Islands

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**HONIARA** • (800) 663-5363, (011) 677-20412 • e-mail: bilikiki@horizon.bc.ca • Internet: http://www.3route.com/scuba/bilikiki.html • Dives the Solomon Islands, Florida Islands, Morovo Lagoon. 125-foot live-aboard with 10 cabins, professional diving services, E-6 processing. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 10 days, \$2,930.

### M/V SOLOMON SEA

Dives Solomon Islands, including Morovo Lagoon, New Georgia Islands. 80-foot boat, 5 cabins. Caters to small groups. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,855.

### M/V SPIRIT OF SOLOMONS

**HONIARA** • (800) 663-5363, (011) 677-20412 • e-mail: bilikiki@horizon.bc.ca • Internet: http://www.3route.com/scuba/bilikiki.html • Dives the Solomon Islands. 120-foot vessel with 13 cabins, E-6 processing, experienced and professional diving services. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 10 days, \$2,930.

### POSEIDON'S QUEST

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## Thailand

### ANDAMAN EXPLORER

**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-340088 • e-mail: FANTASEA@Phuket.com • Internet: http://www.padi.com/fantasea.htm • Dives the Similan Islands. 50-foot boat, 7 cabins. Booking office: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel.

### CRESCENT

**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-340406 • e-mail: seadivers@phuket.com • Dives Similan Islands, Surin Islands and Richelieu Rocks. 60-foot ketch with 3 double cabins and 4 berth cabins, all with air-conditioning. Offers comfortable diving in small groups of 8 to 10. Booking offices: Adventure Express; Boulder Adventures, (303) 443-6789; Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days/8 nights, Surin Island cruise, 3 dives daily, accommodations, meals, \$1,080 per person.

### FANTASEA DIVERS/M/V FANTASEA

**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-295511, (011) 6676-340088 • e-mail: FANTASEA@Phuket.com • Internet: http://www.padi.com/fantasea.htm • Dives Burma Banks, Similan Islands, Myanmar, Andaman Sea. 100-foot vessel with 5 air-conditioned double cabins, 1 quad and 1 single. Professional photography services available. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,460.

### GAEA

**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-340406 • e-mail: seadivers@phuket.com • Dives Similan Islands, Surin Islands and Richelieu Rocks. 50-foot trimaran with 3 double cabins and 2 single cabins. Offers comfortable diving in small groups of 8 to 10. Booking offices: Tropical Adventures Travel; Boulder Adventures, (303) 443-6789; Adventure Express. Best package: 7 days/8 nights, Surin Island cruise, 3 dives daily, all food and accommodations, tanks and weights, \$1,080 per person.

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**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-280645, (011) 6676-280644 • Dives Similan, Surin and Richelieu Rocks. Full board, accommodations in air-conditioned cabins, tanks, weights and air. PADI and NAUI courses offered on the trip.

### SAI MAI

**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-330936 • Dives Burma Banks, Similan Islands. 73-foot boat, 4 cabins. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,795.

**SERAPH**

**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-340406 • e-mail: [seadivers@phuket.com](mailto:seadivers@phuket.com) • Dives Similan Islands, Surin Islands and Richelieu Rocks. 57-foot schooner with 4 double cabins. Offers comfortable diving in small groups of 8 to 10. Booking offices: Tropical Adventures Travel; Boulder Adventures, (303) 443-6789; Adventure Express. Best package: 5 days, 6 nights, Similan Island cruise, 3 dives per day, \$770 per person.

**WANDERLUST**

**PHUKET** • (011) 6676-340406 • e-mail: [seadivers@phuket.com](mailto:seadivers@phuket.com) • Dives Similan Islands, Surin Islands and Richelieu Rocks, as well as Racha Yai, Racha Noi and Shark Point. 51-foot trimaran with 3 double cabins, and 2 single cabins. Offers comfortable diving in small groups of 8 to 10. Booking offices: Tropical Adventures Travel; Boulder Adventures, (303) 443-6789; Adventure Express. Best package: 7 days/8 nights, Surin Island cruise, 3 dives daily, accommodations, food, \$1,080 per person.

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(011) 691-330-4302 • Dives Truk Lagoon and other Truk sites. 170-foot vessel, 11 staterooms, 22 diver capacity, aluminum dive tenders. Caters to small parties. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, PacTours, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Trip-N-Tour Micronesia, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,400.

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KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 344-5662, (808) 329-8182 • e-mail: [divboat@aol.com](mailto:divboat@aol.com) • internet: <http://www.aggressor.com> • Dives reefs and wrecks of Truk Lagoon. 117-foot by 22-foot vessel with 14 passengers max. Emphasis on service, consistency throughout Aggressor Fleet. Booking offices: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 5 days, \$1,395.

**Turks & Caicos****AQUANAUT**

Dives various sites throughout the Turks & Caicos Islands. Booking office: See & Sea Travel.

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**TURKS & CAICOS AGGRESSOR**

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ST. THOMAS, USVI • (809) 771-0164 • e-mail: [triworld@admirals.com](mailto:triworld@admirals.com) • internet: <http://www.admirals.com/triworld/> • Dives the U.S. Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands. 58-foot trimaran with 3 double cabins with own head and shower. Offers personalized service with no set itinerary. Dive package: all-inclusive, rates based on 6-person occupancy, \$1,200.

**Venezuela****ANTARES III**

Dives Los Roques archipelago. 85 feet, 6 cabins. Deluxe accommodations. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days, \$1,375.

**LOS ROQUES NATIONAL PARK/AEREOTUY**

PORLAMAR, MARGARITA ISLAND • (011) 5895-632211/630307/630367 • Dives the Los Roques archipelago. Arranges live-aboard trips, lodging and flights. Virtually unexplored dive areas. Booking offices: Dive Tours, See & Sea, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 8 days/7 nights on live-aboard, including airfare from Margarita to Los Roques, unlimited diving, all meals, soft drinks, \$1,495 per person, dbl. occ.

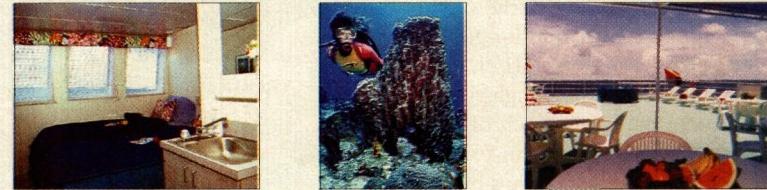
**Vietnam****SONG SAI GON**

NHA TRANG • internet: <http://www.maluku.com> • Dives the South China Sea out of Nha Trang (May thru July). 100-foot boat, 5 air-conditioned cabins. Booking office: Maluku Adventures. Best package: 7 days, 7 nights, \$2,225 per person.

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Now for the surprise: Aruba's collection of nearshore wrecks earned it a near-tie with Bermuda for best wreck diving in the Caribbean/Atlantic region in this year's Readers' Choice Awards. An aggressive artificial reef program has put this most Spanish and independent of the Netherlands Antilles islands back on the dive atlas, with enough wrecks—shallow and deep, small and monolithic—to fill

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► **ARUBA DIVE OPERATORS**

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** As stable as the weather: 80F in summer with some dips to 75F in winter.

► **VISIBILITY:** Depending on currents and plankton, ranges from 50 to 100 feet.

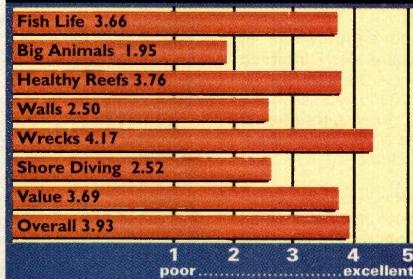
► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** The Pilot Boat at 90 feet is home to morays peering from port-holes and a school of mutinous glassy sweepers occupying the wheelhouse. The

German freighter *Antilla*—which sank more than 50 years ago—is now a high-rise coral condominium. The *Jane Sea* is a spooky 250-foot freighter sailing the ocean's bottom.

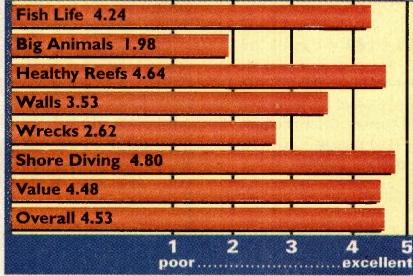
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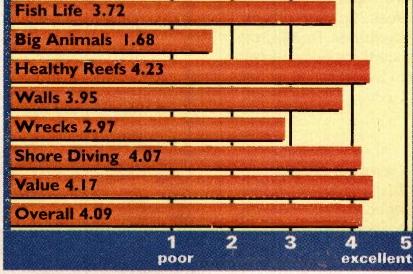
### Reader Ratings Aruba



### Reader Ratings Bonaire



### Reader Ratings Curaçao



### ARUBA PRO DIVE

(011) 2978-25520 • Dives the south coast, Rocky Beach, Baby Beach and Dos Chiquito reefs and west coast wrecks, including the *Antilla*, the *Debbie II* and sunken airplanes. Small groups with no minimum on the number of divers, all levels of instruction, underwater photography and no deposit required on equipment. Booking office: TNT Travel, (800) 262-0123, (617) 262-9200. Package: 7 nights, six 1-tank dives, \$1,709 sgl. occ., \$945 dbl. occ.

### ARUBA SCUBA CENTER

(800) 845-3483, (011) 2978-21596 • Dives all of the popular dive sites around Aruba, especially the south coast reefs. Small operation gives personal attention to small groups (8-9 divers max.) on a 33-foot boat. Located at the Bushiri Resort. All-inclusive resort packages available, diving extra.

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### MERMAID SPORT DIVERS

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### NATIVE DIVERS ARUBA

(011) 2978-64763 • Dives the south coast reefs and wrecks, west coast wrecks and *Antilla* night dive. Small groups, personalized service, flexible schedules.

### PELICAN WATERSPORTS

(011) 2978-31228/24739 • Dives Aruba's south and west coasts. A complete and

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## Bonaire

extensive dive schedule. Booking office: East Coast Divers, (800) 649-3483. Package: 7 nights at the Holiday Inn, American breakfast daily, \$747 per person.

### RED SAIL SPORTS ARUBA

(800) 255-6425, (011) 2978-61603 • Dives Aruba's southern side, including Palm Beach, wrecks and southeastern coral slopes. Owns Pro 42 Jet dive boat, staff always carries tanks and gear, towels provided. Package: 5 dives, \$125.

### SCUBA ARUBA

(011) 2978-66690 • Offers wreck, reef and night diving. Caters to all skill levels of divers in an unhurried environment, PADI staff. Best package: 4 dives, equipment included, \$100.

### UNIQUE SPORTS OF ARUBA

(800) 450-2084, (011) 2978-60096 • Dives all wrecks of Aruba, including the southeast coast. Small groups, emphasis on fun and safety. Booking offices: KJ Dive Adventures; Dolphin Holiday, (800) 345-2782.

## ABCs/BONAIRE

C ap'n Don—that embodiment of Bonaire diving—coined the operative phrase for this boot-shaped island off Venezuela's coast: "Diving Freedom." Here's the deal: Anytime you want it, 24 hours a day, the reef awaits. Down here you're among friends. As the official license plates say, "Divers' Paradise."

And Bonaireans intend to keep it that way. One of the Caribbean's oldest and most effective marine parks protects the coral reefs that ring all of Bonaire and are, quite literally, just a giant-stride from shore. You can relax on a five-minute boat ride or take advantage of the unlimited shore diving option offered by resorts here. Throw some tanks in the back of your rental Jeep and head out to the 60-plus sites marked, mapped and reserved for divers only. Naturally, Bonaire earned "world's best shore diving" honors in this year's Readers' Choice Awards.

► **WEATHER:** Dry and sunny year-round. Temperatures rarely below 75F in winter or above 85F in summer. Trade winds lower humidity and blow away most winged pests.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Matches the weather: 80F in summer, with an occasional dip to 75F in winter.

► **VISIBILITY:** Depending on currents and plankton, from 60 to 100 feet; occasionally more in summer.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Around nearby Klein Bonaire, a tiny deserted island, are 24 primal sites. Washington-Slagbaai Park is one of the Caribbean's largest wilderness areas and offers advanced shore diving. On the northwest coast, Rappel and Karpata are monuments to hearty hard corals and prime seahorse pastures.

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## Bonaire

sites around Bonaire, special locations, including east side. Noncommercial atmosphere, reef wall directly off property. Call for customized package rates.

### BLUE DIVERS/PALM STUDIOS

(011) 5997-6860 • Boat dives to Klein Bonaire and guided shore dives to all sites. 25 years experience, small personal dive operation. Booking office: Great Southern Adventures, (601) 353-7559.

### BON BINI DIVERS BONAIRE

(800) 786-3483, (011) 5997-5425 • Dives Bonaire Marine Park, Klein Bonaire and the southern tip of the island. Offers personalized and professional diving services and instructional courses. Booking offices: Caribbean Dive Tours, Undersea Adventures. Package: 8 days/7 nights in condominium, breakfast daily, 6 days of 6 boat dives, unlimited shore diving, \$791.25 per person.

### BUDDY DIVE RESORT

(800) 934-3483, (011) 5997-5080 • Dives Bonaire's north and south sides and Klein Bonaire. Guided dives to the east side, drive-in filling station for shore dives. Booking offices: Caribbean Adventures, Caribbean Dive Tours, Rothschild Travel. Package: 8 days/7 nights, 6 boat dives, unlimited shore diving, deluxe 1-bedroom apartment, \$662 per person.

### CAPTAIN DON'S HABITAT

(011) 5997-8290 • e-mail: [divebuda@aol.com](mailto:divebuda@aol.com) • internet: <http://www.interknowledge.com/bonaire/> • Dives all listed dive sites on Bonaire. The "Home of Diving Freedom" offers flexible schedules, tanks 24 hours a day, reef right offshore. Booking office: Maduro Dive Fanta-Seas. Package: 8 days, 7 nights, 2 boat dives daily, unlimited shore diving, breakfast, transfers, taxes and gratuities, from \$580.

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(011) 5997-8529 • Caters to small groups, offers specialty courses. Personalized, unique guiding.

### DIVE BONAIRE/PETER HUGHES

(800) 367-3484, (919) 419-3484 • Dives Calabas Reef, Jerry's Reef, La Dania's Leap, 1,000 Steps, Hilma Hooker. Experienced operation, Peter Hughes standards. Booking offices: Caradonna Caribbean Tours, Go Diving, PADI Travel Network, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages may vary. Call booking offices for rates.

### GREAT ADVENTURES AT HARBOUR VILLAGE

(800) 868-7477, (011) 5997-7500 • internet: <http://www.interknowledge.com/bonaire/> • Dives moorings on leeward side of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, except Washington Park. Caters to small groups, high staff-to-guest ratio, stresses comfort and amenities for guests. Booking office: Caradonna Caribbean Tours.

### PHOTO TOURS

(011) 5997-8060 • Dives Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. Offers photography and video services.

### SAND DOLLAR DIVE & PHOTO

(800) 288-4773, (011) 5997-5252 • internet: <http://www.interknowledge.com/bonaire/> • Dives the waters around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. 4 boat departs daily, children's programs, guided kayak and snorkeling trips, free snorkel field trips, 16 instructors, courses offered in 6 languages.

### SUNSET BEACH DIVE CENTER

(800) 328-2288, (011) 5997-8330 • internet: <http://www.interknowledge.com/bonaire/> • Dives the west coast of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. Offers diving freedom and a friendly and multilingual dive staff. Booking office: Caradonna Caribbean Tours. Package: 8 days, 7 nights, 6 days diving with 1 night dive, unlimited shore diving, 1 night dive and 1 meal, taxes and service charges, \$869.

### TOUCAN DIVING BONAIRE

(800) 282-3941, (011) 5997-2500 • e-mail: [valkbon@ibm.net](mailto:valkbon@ibm.net) • Dives all sites on Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. Takes small groups (12 divers max.) to remote sites in a friendly, professional atmosphere. Booking office: Travel Marketing Services, Ltd., (800) 766-6016. Packages vary. Call for rates.

## ABCs/CURAÇAO

**C**uraçao is the definitive Dutch vacation isle, and the capital city of Willemstad is the center of power, population, commerce and nightlife in the Netherlands Antilles.

Divers have come to know the island apart from its association with sister islands Aruba and Bonaire, and for good reason. Along the leeward west coast of the island are shallow reefs that yield to a gradual reef slope and, eventually, sheer drop-offs. Scattered among the reefs are numerous shipwrecks and much of the island's lush reefs fall under the protection of a marine park. You can reach many of Curaçao's dive sites from shore, but visiting divers should always be wary of currents that run along the shoreline.

► **WEATHER:** Dry and sunny year-round, with temperatures rarely falling below 75F in the winter or rising above 85F in the summer.



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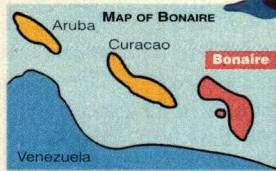
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- VALUE ADDED FEATURES**
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**(800) 367-3484**

Price quoted is for a four (4) night stay per person based on double occupancy and is valid from April 8, 1996 through December 20, 1996. Price includes air-conditioned accommodations in a Standard room, roundtrip airport/hotel transfers, complimentary buoyancy control clinic, the above mentioned VALUE ADDED FEATURES, all taxes and service charges on package features. Local Phone: (919) 419-3484

CIRCLE NO. 42 ON READER SERVICE CARD

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** 80F in the summer but dipping to 75F in the winter.  
 ► **VISIBILITY:** Visibility ranges from 60 to 100 feet or more, depending on storms and plankton blooms.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Curaçao's signature wreck dive, the *Superior Producer*, is a sunken freighter that's upright and intact at 110 feet. Marked by a buoy, it's accessible from shore or by boat. The drop-off at Mike's Place features black corals, orange elephant ear sponges and a massive barrel sponge that has flattened out into a 12-foot disk. At 30 feet, the plateau at East Point drops off into a sheer vertical wall sprouting with stove-pipe sponges and evergreen black corals.

### CURAÇAO DIVE OPERATORS

#### CORAL CLIFF DIVING

(011) 5999-642822 • Dives Mushroom Forest and Cave, Big Sponge, west side of Curaçao. Quiet and relaxed diving, only operator on west side of island. Booking office: Caradonna Caribbean Tours. 10-dive package with unlimited shore diving, tanks and weights, \$235.

#### PRINCESS DIVERS/PETER HUGHES

(800) 9 DANCER, (011) 5999-658991 • e-mail: [dancer@winnet.net](mailto:dancer@winnet.net) • Internet: <http://www.winnet.net/dancer> • Dives the entire southwest coast of Curaçao and Klein Curaçao. Adding new 41-foot boat in June, will become a nitrox center in near future. Package: 4 nights including diving, \$495, dbl. occ.

#### RED SAIL SPORTS CURAÇAO

(800) 255-6425, (011) 5999-368800 • Dives entire southwest coast of Curaçao, including Curaçao Underwater Park and West Point. Owns Pro 42 Jet dive boat, new gear, staff carries gear and tanks, towels provided. Opened in March. Call for package rates.

#### SEASCAPE

(011) 5999-625000, EXT. 6056 • Located at the Curaçao Caribbean Hotel & Casino. Dives Curaçao's south coast, including shipwrecks and airplane wrecks, and wall, cave, reef, drift and night dives at more than 40 sites. 25 years experience and a dedicated, multilingual crew. Booking offices: Caradonna Caribbean Tours, PADI Travel Network, Scuba Holidays, (312) 929-2821. Dive packages vary. Call for rates.

#### TOUCAN DIVING

(011) 5999-612500 • Dives Curaçao's south coast, the underwater park and sites from east to west at Banda Abaro. Offers shore diving, dive safaris, boat diving from a 60-foot catamaran. Booking offices: Vandervalk Tours, (011) 31-1724-85151; Vandervalk Travel, (011) 31-3440-30302; Globetrotters, (617) 621-0099, ext. 464. Dive packages vary. Call for rates.

#### UNDERWATER CURAÇAO

(011) 5999-618100 • Dives the National Underwater Park, Eastpoint, West Point and Klein Curaçao. Dedicated dive hotel, custom dive programs and personalized diving services. Booking offices: Caradonna Caribbean Tours, Go Diving, PADI Travel Network.

1,200-mile-long factory of biodiversity, the reef that stretches along the country's east coast swells with diversity: 1,500 species of fish, 4,000 types of mollusks, 400 species of hard and soft corals—at last count. And there are 1,200 shipwrecks to explore, some dating back to the 17th century.

But there's more to Aussie land than just the GBR. Just a day's sail east of the reef is the fabled Coral Sea, where subsea mountains called bommies explode with their own fantastical profusions of life. From Australia's south coast, there are great white shark expeditions where divers can go mask-to-nose with the shark we love to fear. And on the West Coast, you can swim with whale sharks, the gentle giants we just love, period.

► **WEATHER:** Australian weather patterns are opposite of those in North America. Summer runs from December to February, and winter runs from June through August. The Tropic of Capricorn cuts across through the country just north of Heron Island. In the north, daytime temperatures range from the 80Fs in winter to the 90Fs with high humidity in summer. In the south, winter temps range from the

## AUSTRALIA

If all the fabled "land down under" had to offer was the Great Barrier Reef, it would still be the most overwhelming dive destination not only in the Pacific, but on the planet. With 2,900 separate reef systems interwoven into a

## Thanks for your trust!

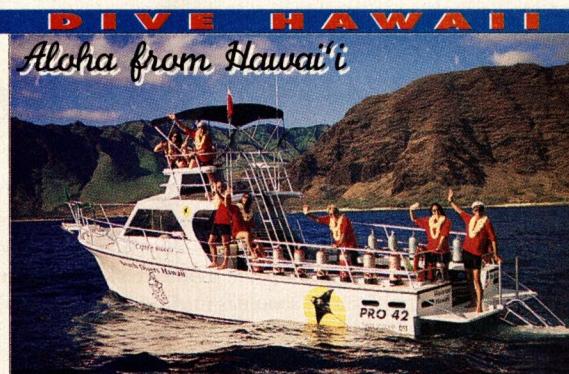
I trust Rodale's because of their independent testing of dive gear and diver ratings of resorts and destinations that are truthful. Now when I spend my hard-earned money on the sport I love, I can do it as an informed consumer.

Robert Kries - Pembroke Pines, FL

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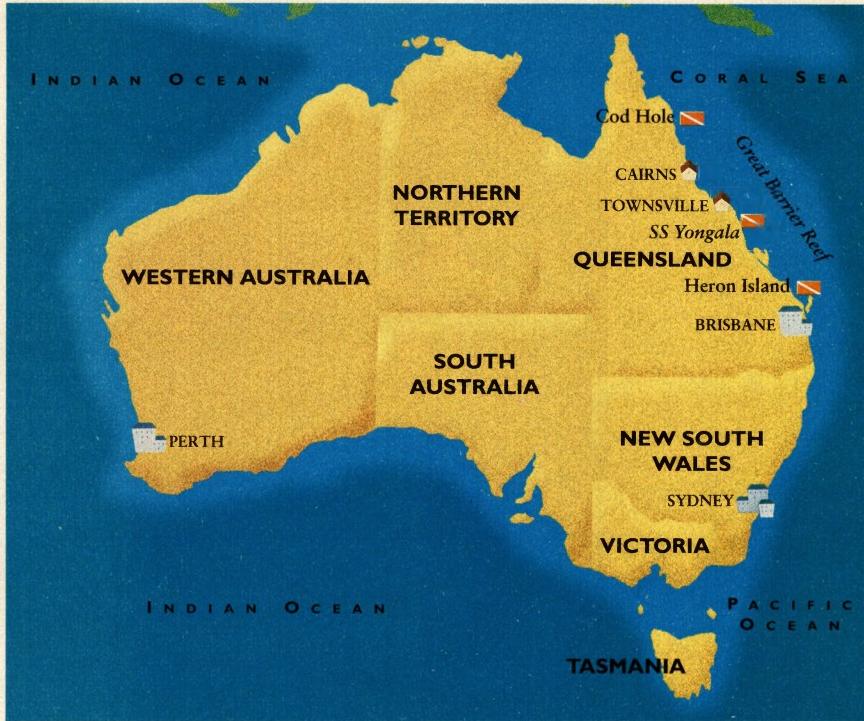
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70Fs in winter to the 80Fs in summer.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** 80Fs in the summer, mid-70Fs in winter.

► **VISIBILITY:** Water inside the Great Barrier Reef is affected by tides and surge and averages 40 to 60 feet of visibility with an occasional high of 100 feet. Outside the reefs, visibility is usually a reliable 60 to 100 feet and can soar to 200 feet in the open Coral Sea.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Undisputed as the country's top wreck, the *SS Yongala*, a luxury liner that sank in a 1911 typhoon, has since been completely overtaken with marine growth. Cod Hole swarms with massive potato cod, a grouper-like fish that tips the scales at 150+ pounds. Heron Island, home to one of several GBR research stations, offers a 100-foot-deep wall covered with sea fans.

Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Best package: 2-day adventure weekend, 4 dives, \$AUS99; lunch \$AUS7.50 extra.

#### Northern Territory

##### CULLEN BAY DIVE!

**CULLEN BAY • (011) 6189-813049** • Dives Darwin Harbor and surrounding area, including reefs and more than 20 shipwrecks. Offers new and professional diving facilities at marina, nitrox, Australian standards test station. Package: Trip to the wreck of the *Marchart 3*: 1 day, 2 dives, tanks and weights, \$AUS78, \$AUS88 with lunch.

#### Queensland

##### ADVENTURE SPORTS

**BRISBANE • (011) 6173-3913766** • Dives southeast Queensland. 24-hour hotline, specializes in singles, couples and small groups. Weekend dive package, meals, air fills, tanks and weights, snacks, \$200. 2-tank day trips, \$50.

##### DON COWIE'S REEF SERVICES

**CAIRNS • (011) 6170-311588** • Dives the Great Barrier Reef (from Cairns or Mackay) and Undine Reef (from Cape Tribulation). Offers small, personalized groups, 16 years experience, day boat in Cairns and day boat in Cape Tribulation. Cairns Convention and Visitors Bureau, (011) 6170-517366. Learn-to-Dive package at Cape Tribulation, including transfers from Cairns to Cape Tribulation, 5 nights accommodations, 4-day SSI dive course, \$499.

##### HERON ISLAND DIVE SHOP

**HERON ISLAND • (011) 6179-781488** • Dives Heron and Wistari Reefs. Designated a marine park, Heron Island is a coral cay with spectacular fish life. Dive sites within 15-minute boat ride. Booking office: Adventure Express. Best package: 5 nights, 8 boat dives with boat transfers, all meals, \$AUS1,067; approximately \$US807.

##### LIZARD ISLAND LODGE

**LIZARD ISLAND • (800) 812-525 (Australia only), (011) 6170-603999 • Internet: <http://www.peg.apc.org/~austresorts>** • Dives the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea, Cod Hole, Lizard Island. Only land-based operation to dive the Cod Hole.

##### NAUTILUS SCUBA CENTRE

**BRISBANE • (011) 6178-571440** • Dives local reefs and wrecks, the Great Barrier Reef. 20 years experience, emphasis on safety. Booking office: Dive Travel Australia, (011) 6129-706311. Best package: 2 nights, 2 days on 120-foot live-aboard, all meals, air, tanks, unlimited diving, \$225.

##### OCEAN SPIRIT CRUISES

**CAIRNS • (011) 6170-312920 • e-mail: [ospirit@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ospirit@ozemail.com.au)** • Dives Michaelmas and Upolu Cays on the Great Barrier Reef. Located on the Great Barrier Reef, offers personal service. Booking offices: Always Dive Expeditions, (011) 6138-858863; Oz Dive; Pro Dive Travel, (011) 6126-656333. Best package: Upolu Cay, certifying dive, includes transfers, buffet lunch, morning/afternoon tea, all equipment, tour, \$AUS124.

##### PORT DOUGLAS DIVE CENTRE

**PORT DOUGLAS • (011) 6170-995327 • e-mail: [portdoug@ozemail.com.au](mailto:portdoug@ozemail.com.au) • Internet: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~portdoug/pdvc.html>** • Dives the outer reef sites on the Great Barrier Reef. Offers fast, modern dive boats, personal service. Best packages: 2-tank dive, full gear, \$188; 1 day of snorkeling, full gear, \$108.

##### PRO DIVE BRISBANE

**BRISBANE • (011) 6173-3683766** • Dives the southern Great Barrier Reef and Moreton Bay. PADI 5-star IDC facility, 2 retail stores and heated training pool. Booking office: Pro Dive Travel, (011) 6122-649499; Best package: 2 day/2 night live-aboard trip: 6 to 10 dives, all meals, \$150; day trips: 2 dives and lunch, \$60.

##### QUICKSILVER DIVING SERVICES

**PORT DOUGLAS • (011) 6170-995050 • e-mail: [quiki@internorth.com.au](mailto:quiki@internorth.com.au) • Internet: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~quicks3>** • Dives Agincourt Reef and the Great Barrier Reef. Offers dive trips to the outer Great Barrier Reef. Booking office: Abel Tasman Tours, (800) 727-1626. Best package: 5 days accommodations, includes open-water certification, \$AUS528.

##### TUSA DIVE CONNECTION

**CAIRNS • (011) 6170-311248 • e-mail: [tusa@internorth.com.au](mailto:tusa@internorth.com.au)** • Dives over 20 outer reef sites from Cairns. 2 modern, high-speed vessels, small groups and individual attention. Booking office: Oz Dive. Package: 5 nights, 3 days of diving, \$AUS729 per person, sgl. occ.; \$AUS560 per person, dbl. occ., includes 2 dives per day, equipment rental, hotel transfers, lunch and morning tea.

#### Victoria

##### GEELONG DIVE & OUTDOOR CENTRE

**GEELONG • (011) 6152-213342** • Dives Port Phillip Heads. Offers J-Class submarine diving and wall dives. Booking office: Dive Adventures, (011) 6139-5342700. Best package: 5 days/4 nights, 10 dives, tanks and weights, meals and accommodations, \$490.

#### Western Australia

##### CAPE DIVE

**DUNSBOROUGH • (011) 6197-568778** • Dives Canal Rocks, Cape Naturaliste, Wrights Bank, Indjinup and Bunker Bay. Caters to groups as small as 2 divers or arranges package deals for up to 40 divers. Packages vary.

##### CORAL DIVE

**CORAL BAY • (011) 6199-425940** • Dives Ningaloo Reef. Only operator in Coral Bay diving outer reef, lagoon and inner reef.

##### MALIBU DIVING CENTRE

**ROCKINGHAM • (011) 6195-279211 • e-mail: [100245.2276@compuserve.com](mailto:100245.2276@compuserve.com)** • Dives the Shoalwater Marine Park, Carnac and Garden Islands and Murray Reefs. Offers 3 dives daily, nitrox and tech dives, wreck and reef dives, cave expeditions and dolphin and sea lion dives. Booking office: Ski and Sea Travel, (011) 6129-9070416. Best package: 2 boat dives, backpacker accommodations, \$AUS40 (boat dives), \$AUS10 (accommodations).

#### LIVE-ABOARDS

##### Queensland

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#### AUSTRALIA DIVE OPERATORS

##### New South Wales

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## BAHAMAS

You can do it all in the Bahamas: make guaranteed shark and dolphin dives, glide through shallow coral gardens, scale deep walls, explore shipwrecks old and new, and marvel at the limestone architecture of caverns, sinks and mysterious blue holes. The 700 limestone islands and cays that make up this island nation are scattered across 90,000 square miles of the Atlantic, but they start just 55 miles east of Fort Lauderdale.

If you aren't hopping from island to island by live-aboard, decide ahead of time what you want in the way of topside amenities. The major tourist islands of New Providence, Paradise Island and Freeport have plenty of casinos, golf courses and posh hotels to choose from, while the Out Islands (the Abacos, Andros, Bimini, Cat Island, Crooked Island, the Exumas, Harbour Island, Long Island and San

Salvador) are laid-back and rustic.

► **WEATHER:** From December to May, temperatures average 60F to 75F, while summer temps average 80F to 85F. Summer is the season of flat seas and bright sun. While winter storm fronts make ideal conditions less predictable, these storms pass quickly and conditions soon return to normal.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Winter water temps stay in the 70Fs while summer temps peak in the high 80Fs.

► **VISIBILITY:** With no runoff, vis is usually a consistent 100 to 150 feet with peaks of 200 feet.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Shark diving is offered on many islands and in many different forms. Some dive operators even let the customer do the feeding. The Blue Hole off Andros is one of the

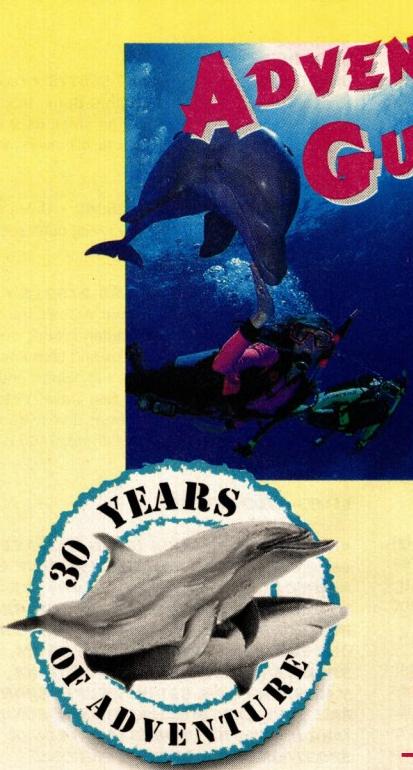


largest of the mysterious limestone caverns and features three different levels. The Current Cut off Harbour Island is an 8- to 12-knot thrill ride that will change your concept of drift diving.

### BAHAMAS DIVE OPERATORS

### BAHAMA DIVERS

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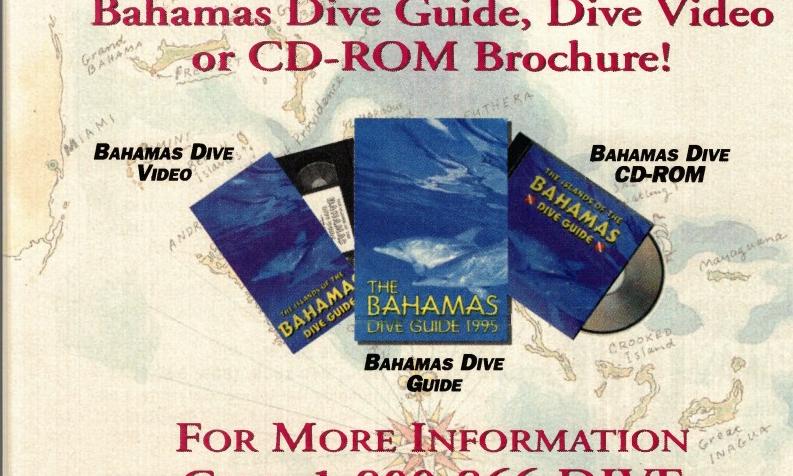


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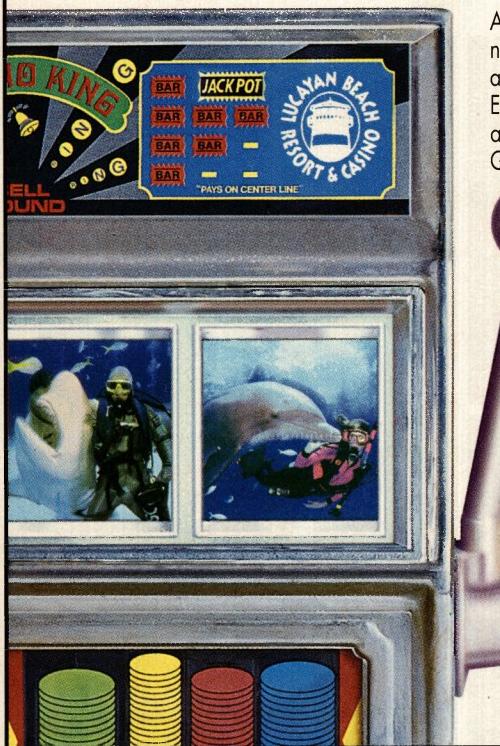
#### Bahamas Diving Association Dive Operations:

ABACO	BRENDAL'S DIVE SHOP	800-780-9941
	DIVE ABACO	800-247-5338
	SPANISH CAY DIVING	809-365-0083
	WALKER'S CAY UNDERSEA ADVENTURES	800-327-8150
ANDROS	SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE	800-223-6961
BIMINI	BIMINI UNDERSEA ADVENTURES	800-348-4644
CAT ISLAND	CAT ISLAND DIVE CENTER	809-342-3053
	FERNANDEZ BAY VILLAGE	800-940-1905
ELEUTHERA/HARBOUR ISLAND	ROMORA BAY CLUB	809-333-2323
	VALENTINE'S DIVE CENTER	800-383-6480
EXUMA	EXUMA FANTASEA	800-760-0700
GRAND BAHAMA/FREEPORT	THE UNDERWATER EXPLORERS SOCIETY	800-992-DIVE
LONG ISLAND	XANADU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES	800-327-8150
NEW PROVIDENCE/NASSAU	STELLA MARIS RESORT	800-426-0466
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	CUSTOM AQUATICS	809-362-1492
	DIVE DIVE DIVE	800-368-3483
	DIVER'S HAVEN	809-393-0869
	NASSAU SCUBA CENTRE	800-327-8150
	STUART COVE'S DIVE SOUTH OCEAN	800-879-9832
	SUN DIVERS	800-298-4786
	SUNSKIFF DIVERS	800-331-5884
SAN SALVADOR	RIDING ROCK INN	800-272-1492
LIVE-ABOARD DIVE BOATS	BLACKBEARD'S CRUISES	800-327-9600
	BOTTOM TIME ADVENTURES	800-234-8464
	NEKTON DIVING CRUISES	800-899-6753
	OUT ISLAND VOYAGES	800-241-4591
	SEA DRAGON	305-522-0161
	SEA FEVER DIVING CRUISES	800-443-3837
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\*Prices Effective April 14 - Dec 19, 1996. Prices subject to change.

Bahamas

## Reader Ratings Bahamas



NEW PROVIDENCE • (809) 393-8724 • e-mail: bahdiver@netrunner.net • internet: http://empg.com/bahamadivers • Dives Blue Hole, area wrecks, walls and reefs. Offers transportation from hotels, underwater videos of your dive and guided dives. Booking offices: Caribbean Reservations, (800) 398-3483; Lorraine's Tours, (612) 797-7777.

### BAHAMA ISLAND ADVENTURES

BIMINI • (800) 329-1337 • Dives Bimini and Chub Cay. Best package: 3 days/2 nights, accommodations, airfare, diving, free breakfast and lunch, \$349.

### BIMINI UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

BIMINI • (800) 348-4644, (809) 347-3089 • e-mail: biminua@aol.com • Dives Bimini Islands. Owner/operators on-site with 15 years experience. 7 nights/6 days, accommodations, 20 dives, from \$683.

### BRENDAL'S DIVE SHOP INTERNATIONAL, LTD.

GREEN TURTLE CAY, ABACO ISLAND • (800) 780-9941, (809) 365-4411 • Dives San Jacinto, Tarpon Dive, Coral Cavern. Owner-operated, offers personalized service, sailboat rentals, advanced certification and special all-day trip. Best package: 8 days/7 nights, six 2-tank dives, \$934.

### CAT ISLAND DIVE CENTER

CAT ISLAND • (809) 342-3053 • Dives south side of Cat Island and Tartar Bank. Small groups, relaxed atmosphere and picnics between dives. Booking office: Water-House Photo Tours. Package: 7 nights, 6 days of 2-tank boat dives, unlimited shore diving, \$765.

### CLUB MED/COLUMBUS ISLE

SAN SALVADOR • (800) CLUB-MED, (809) 331-2000 • Dives more than 40 sites around San Sal. Offers certification, resort course, referrals, recompression chamber and scuba doctor on-site. Three 50-feet dive catamarans. Rated #1 best resort and dive operator and #2 best day boats in RSD's Readers' Choice in 1996. Packages: 7 nights, 6 days of 2-tank diving, 1 night dive, 3 meals daily, sports and lessons, entertainment, beer and wine, \$1,475. 13 dives, including equipment, \$125.

### DIVE ABACO

MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO • (800) 247-5338, (809) 367-2787 • Internet: http://www.internet-fl.com/abaco.html • Dives the Cathedral, Grouper Alley, Bud's Caves, Maxi-Cave Bay, Maurice Bay and the Tunnels. Offers personally guided underwater tours. Package: 4 nights, 3 days of diving, \$350 per person, dbl. occ.

### DIVE, DIVE, DIVE, LTD.

NEW PROVIDENCE • (800) 368-3483, (809) 362-1401 • Dives Tongue of the Ocean, Shark Alley and James Bond wrecks. Bahamas first nitrox training facility. Best package: 8 days/7 nights, 6 days of 2-tank diving, villa transfers, continental breakfast, \$860 per person.

### DIVER'S HAVEN

NEW PROVIDENCE • (809) 393-0869 • Dives wrecks, reefs, blue holes and walls around New Providence. By special charter only, caters to small groups, offers certifications, video rental and editing. Best package: 7 days, 5 days of diving, hotel tax, transfers, \$424 to \$578.

### EXUMA FANTASEA LTD.

EXUMA • (809) 336-3483 • Dives blue holes. PADI certified underwater naturalist instructors, small groups, 28 years experience.

### FERNANDEZ BAY DIVE SHOP

CAT ISLAND • (800) 940-1905, (809) 342-3043 • Dives walls surrounding Cat Island. Caters to small groups, personal service. Best package: 7 days/6 nights, 2 dives a day, taxes and gratuities, \$927.50 to \$1,555.

### GRAND BAHAMA WATERSPORTS

GRAND BAHAMA • (800) 753-7282, (809) 373-6775 • Dives the southern shore of Grand Bahama and inland sites and caverns. Offers marine ecology and identifica-



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#### Bahamas

tion courses, small groups. Package: 10 dives, including reef fish ID course, \$210.

**NASSAU SCUBA CENTRE, LTD.**

**NEW PROVIDENCE** • (809) 362-1964 • Dives south side of New Providence, day trips to Exumas, Andros and Chub Cay. Offers customized service, fast boats, shark suit adventure, you feed the sharks. Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures. Package includes 4 dives a day, room and breakfast.

**PITTSPOINT LANDINGS**

**CROOKED ISLAND** • (704) 878-8724 • Dives Crooked Island and vicinity. Only operation in area. Call (800) PLACE-2-B for package information and reservations.

**RIDING ROCK INN RESORT & MARINA**

**SAN SALVADOR** • (800) 272-1492, (954) 359-8353 • e-mail: [ridingrock@aol.com](mailto:ridingrock@aol.com) • Dives the leeward and south ends of the island. Offers more than 50 sites and experienced staff knowledgeable about local diving. All-inclusive package: 7 nights accommodations, 18 dives, meals, hotel taxes and gratuities, airport transfers, \$895 (standard) or \$995 (deluxe).

**ROMORA BAY DIVE SHOP**

**HARBOUR ISLAND** • (809) 333-2323 • Dives all shores of Eleuthera. Offers personalized dive excursions, caters to small groups. Package: \$99 per night includes room, meals gratuities, diving at discounted rate.

**SCUBA BIMINI**

**BIMINI** • (800) 848-4073, (954) 359-2705 • Dives Bimini Islands, Victory Reef and Tuna Alley. Offers fast, jet diving boat and friendly staff. 3 days/2 nights accommodations, 8 dives, round-trip airfare from Fort Lauderdale, \$349.

**SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE**

**ANDROS** • (800) 223-6961, (809) 368-2013/2014 • Dives the Andros barrier reef, including walls and blue holes. 36 years experience. All-inclusive package: 4 nights accommodations, 3 dives a day, meals, drinks, transfers, taxes, \$750.

**SPANISH CAY DIVE AND WATERSPORTS**

**SPANISH CAY** • (800) 688-4752, (809) 365-0083 • Dives reef one-half mile from Spanish Cay, including trenches, coral heads, airplane wreck, shallow and deep sites. Virtually untouched sites and abundant marine life. Best packages: 4 days/3 nights, 4 dives, \$395; 5 days/4 nights, 6 dives, \$550; 6 days/5 nights, 8 dives, \$650. All packages include golf cart, equipment, breakfast, welcome drink, island ferry, tennis courts.

**STELLA MARIS RESORT CLUB**

**LONG ISLAND** • (800) 426-0466, (809) 338-2051 • Dives north end of Long Island and Conception Island Wall. Offers wreck and shark diving, only operation on Long Island, 30 years experience. Best package: 7-night package, all meals, airfare from Florida or Nassau, 6 days of diving, \$1,399.

**STUART COVE'S DIVE SOUTH OCEAN**

**NEW PROVIDENCE** • (800) 879-9832, (305) 524-5755 • e-mail: [scove1045@aol.com](mailto:scove1045@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.empg.com/stuart.cove> • Dives the southwest side of New Providence, shark dives and out-island safaris. Offers full-service underwater photo center, shark awareness specialty course, rebreather certification. Package: 4 days/3 nights, 2 days diving, \$319 per person, dbl. occ. Oceanfront room \$66 extra.

**SUN DIVERS, LTD.**

**NEW PROVIDENCE** • (809) 325-8927 • Dives east side of New Providence. Offers certifications, referrals and resort courses. Dive Reservation Services, (800) 258-4786 or (305) 489-7725.

**SUNSKIFF DIVERS**

**NEW PROVIDENCE** • (809) 362-1979 • Dives south side of New Providence, Blue Hole off Andros, Exuma charters available. Caters to small groups, personal service. Call (800) 331-5884 for details and reservations. Diving and lodging packages available.

**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS SOCIETY (UNEXSO)**

**GRAND BAHAMA** • (800) 992-DIVE, (809) 373-1244 • Dives Shark Junction, Theo's Wreck, Ben's Caverns, dolphin encounters. 30 years of adventure diving, new professional shark feeder program. Booking office: (800) 992-DIVE, (954) 351-9889. Best package: 7 nights, breakfast daily, 9 dives including 5 reef, 1 shark, 1 night and 1 wreck, tanks and weights, \$589 per person, dbl. occ.

**VALENTINE'S DIVE CENTER**

**HARBOUR ISLAND** • (800) 383-6480, (809) 333-2309 • Dives Harbour Island, north Eleuthera, and inland sinks and caves. Offers personalized service and cave and cavern diving. Booking office: Kentucky Diving Headquarters,

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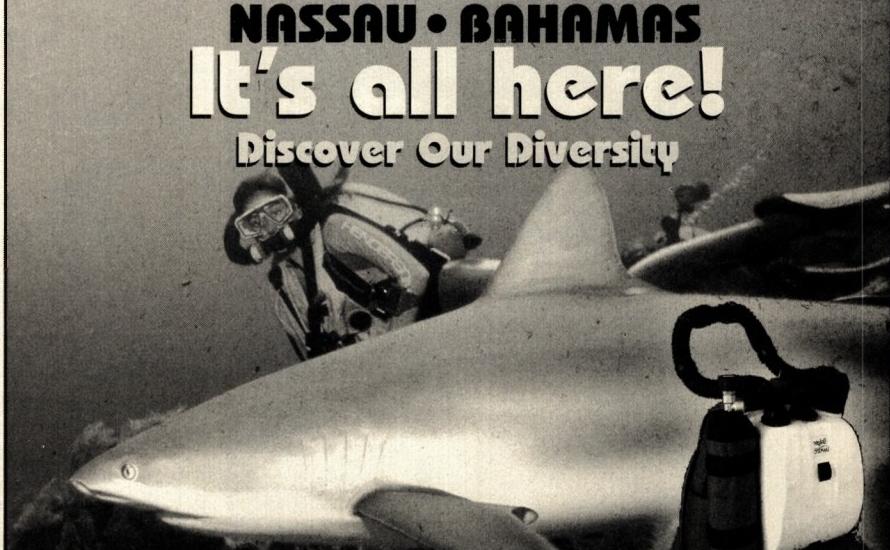
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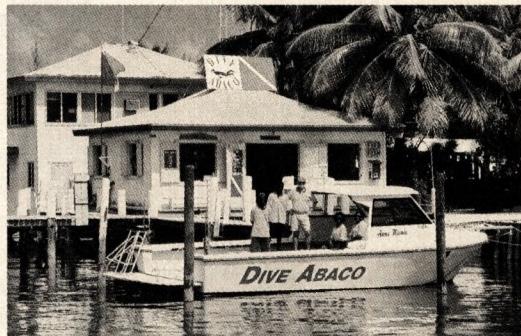
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(800) 383-6480, (502) 897-6481. Best package: 4 days/3 nights, airfare from Fort Lauderdale, 3 dives and 1 night dive, \$489.

#### **WALKERS CAY**

**WALKERS CAY, ABACO • (800) WALKERS, (305) 359-1406** • Dives northern Abacos. Located on private island, offers shark diving. Booking office: Neal Watson's Underseas Adventures. Best package: 4 days/3 nights, all-inclusive, airfare, \$675.

#### **XANADU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES**

**GRAND BAHAMA • (809) 352-3811** • Dives Theo's Wreck, Shark Alley and Pygmy Caves. Offers an experienced staff and uncrowded dive boats. Best package: 7 days/6 nights, 2 tanks a day, \$586, per person, dbl. occ.

#### **LIVE-ABOARDS**

**BLACKBEARD'S CRUISES, BOTTOM TIME II, CAPPALU, DREAM II, M/V BALLYMENA, NEKTON DIVING CRUISES/NEKTON PILOT, HIDDEN HARBOR CHARTERS/PHANTOM, R/V SEA DRAGON, SEA FEVER DIVING CRUISES/SEA FEVER**

## **BERMUDA**

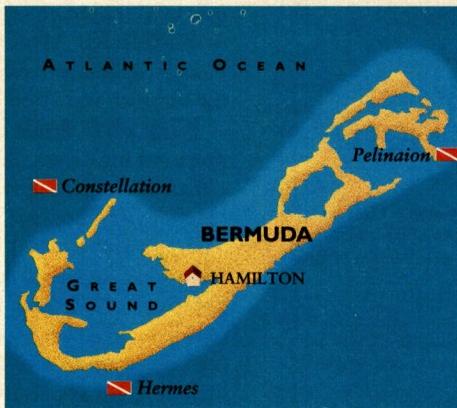
Bermuda is for wreck lovers. Since it was first settled by the shipwrecked crew of the English flagship *Sea Venture* in 1609, the island chain's history has been entangled with maritime trade and warfare. In the past four centuries, hundreds of vessels have fallen victim to the "Devil's Isle," creating a collection of natural shipwrecks nearly unparalleled in the world.

The northernmost coral reefs in the western hemisphere encircle this hook-shaped spit of land and support a wide array of tropical marine life and a few endemic species like the bizarre Bermuda halfbeak. Located 650 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., Bermuda is just a two-hour flight from New York City, which makes it a perfect getaway for divers who want a quick dose of nitrogen and a lesson in maritime history.

► **WEATHER:** Bermuda has two seasons: a May-to-November summer (85F during the day, in the 70Fs at night) and a spring-like winter from December to April (60Fs and 70Fs during the day, 50Fs and 60Fs at night).

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** From 75F to 85F in the summer; dipping to the mid-60Fs in winter.

► **VISIBILITY:** The Gulf Stream guarantees



clear water; 70 to 100 feet of vis is normal, with an occasional 150-foot day.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** The wreck of the 200-foot, four-masted schooner *Constellation*, star of Peter Benchley's *The Deep*. The 385-foot Greek steamer *Pelinaion*, which

lies at 70 feet, split in half by the reef. The easily penetrable wreck of the 165-foot steamer *Hermes*, sunk intentionally as an artificial reef in 1985.

#### **Reader Ratings Bermuda**



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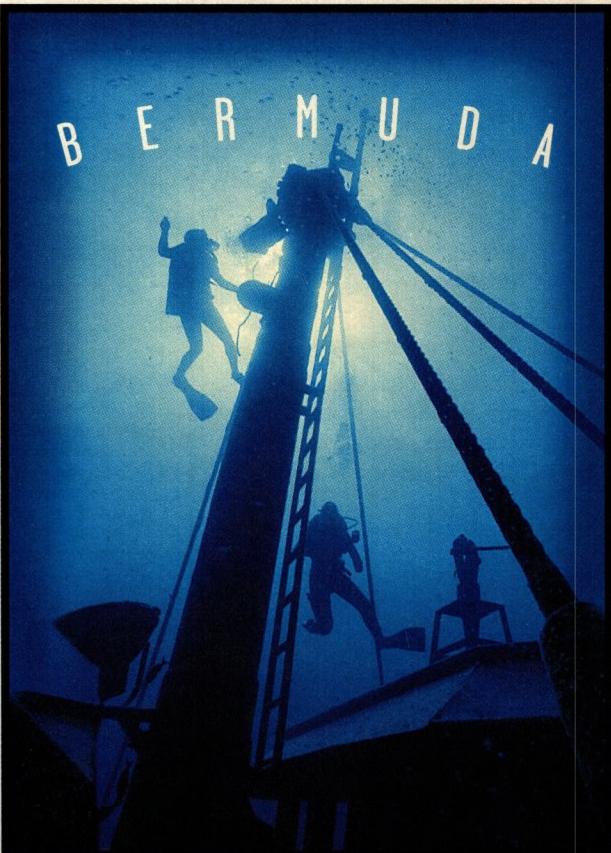
Full-service scuba facility. PADI, NAUI, SSI certification/referrals. Introductory lessons. Wreck, reef dives. Equipment sales, service. Camera rentals. Phone: (441) 234-1034 • Fax: (441) 234-5561

CIRCLE NO. 40 ON READER SERVICE CARD

CIRCLE NO. 39 ON READER SERVICE CARD

CIRCLE NO. 41 ON READER SERVICE CARD

CIRCLE NO. 38 ON READER SERVICE CARD



## BERMUDA DIVE OPERATORS

### BLUE WATER DIVERS CO. LTD.

(441) 234-1034 • Dives Bermuda's south, southwest, west, northwest and north sites. Offers high guide-to-client ratio, wide variety of sites, dives the lee areas when the sea is rough. Dive packages vary.

### FANTASEA DIVING

(441) 236-6339 • Internet: <http://www.bermuda.com/Scuba> • Dives wrecks on the north, south and west sides of the island. Offers a diversity and variety of dive sites. Booking office: PADI Travel Network.

### SOUTH SIDE SCUBA

(441) 238-1833 • Dives all around Bermuda. Owns 3 dive boats, offers personal service, wreck, reef and night diving. Package: 3 2-tank dives, tanks and weights, \$175.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

If warm, cobalt waters are the gold standard in the world of dive travel, what explains the popularity of British Columbia, Canada's west coast province?

The water is green, teeth-chattering cold, and unrestrained as it gusts through the narrow straits that separate Vancouver Island from the mainland at speeds up to 12 knots. But beneath the seemingly inhospitable waters is a multi-colored riot of soft corals that outshine many Caribbean reefs. Add kelp gardens and a cast of impressive marine life including friendly wolf eels, giant Pacific octopuses, massive Puget Sound king crabs, killer



whales, six-gill sharks, dolphins, salmon and sea lions, and you have reason enough for any curious diver to don a dry suit, time the tides, and sample some of the planet's best cold-water diving. On top of the natural wonders, the region also features two intact Canadian destroyers sunk as artificial reefs, and a third warship scheduled to go down this June.

**WEATHER:** Diving offered year-round. Summers are warm and mostly dry; winters are cool and wet.

**AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Water temperatures stay in the mid-40Fs year-round but surface temperatures may reach 55F to

60F in the summer.

**► VISIBILITY:** Affected by plankton blooms, visibility averages 30 to 60 feet in the summer and 70 to 100 feet in winter.

**► THREE GREAT DIVES:** Intact, upright and prepared for divers, the destroyer *HMCS Chaudiere* and her sister ships are redefining the concept of an artificial reef. The canopy of bull kelp near *Stubbs Island* is filled with a variety of macro photo subjects from anemones to juvenile rockfish. The sheer rock wall of *Browning Pass* is a palate of colorful soft corals, including red sea strawberries, green and gold tunics, purple hydrocorals and beige finger sponges.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVE OPERATORS

### ABYSSAL DIVING CHARTERS & LODGE

**QUATHIASKI COVE** • (800) 499-ABYS • e-mail: [abyssal@oberon.ark.com](mailto:abyssal@oberon.ark.com) • Dives Discovery Passage and Campbell River area. Only full-time lodge dedicated to diving, custom-built dive boats. Best package: 2 dives, air, tanks and weights, accommodations, 3 meals, \$CAN125 per person, per day.

### BLUE WATER DIVING, INC.

(604) 436-4447 • e-mail: [scuba@lightspeed.bc.ca](mailto:scuba@lightspeed.bc.ca) • Dives Howe Sound, Indian Arm, Sechelt Inlet, including the *HMCS Chaudiere*, and Gulf Islands. In addition to store location in Vancouver, offers mobile scuba education and retail operation. Dive package: \$95 overnight, \$45 per day.

### DIVE & SEA SPORTS, LTD.

(604) 524-1188 • Dives the Pacific Northwest. 23 years of experience. Diving: \$CAN175 per day.

### GALIANO ISLAND DIVING SERVICE

(604) 539-3109 • Dives Porlier Pass, Galiano Island, Gulf Islands and other reefs and wrecks. Only dive shop on Galiano Island, offers air fills, instruction, boat diving and historic shipwrecks. Package: Boat, air, meals and accommodations, \$125 per person (5-person min.).

### GOLDEN CITY SCUBA

(604) 362-7693 • Dives inland lakes and British Columbia's southeast and west coasts. Year-round diving services, full-service dive shop, PADI certifications. Package: 2-tank dive, \$CAN55; with equipment, \$CAN100.

### GOOD DIVING & KAYAKING

(604) 483-3223 • Dives Desolation Sound, Okeover, Texada, Iron Mines and many other sites. Offers dive kayak rental and sales, PADI instruction. Excluding meals, packages are available from \$CAN168.

### HIGH TEST DIVE CHARTERS

(604) 247-9753 • Dives Porlier Pass, Galiano, Gabriola Pass and Hornby Island. Offers new custom-built dive boats, personalized service and new diving lodge with full facilities. Booking offices: International Diving Centre, (604) 736-2541; Ocean Pro Divers, (604) 538-5608.

### LOWES RESORT FISHING AND DIVING

(800) 870-9055, (604) 883-2456 • Dives Malaspina and Georgia Straits, Agamemnon Channel, Jervis and Sechelt Inlets and Skookumchuck Rapids. Offers complete resort and waterfront facility and packages for both individuals and groups. Package: 1 night accommodation, 1 day diving (2 tanks), taxes included, \$120.

### OCEAN CENTRE

(800) 414-2202, (604) 475-2202 • Dives Gulf Islands, southern Vancouver Island, around Victoria and the wrecks *G.B. Church* and the *MacKenzie*. Offers 4,500 square feet of underwater murals and charter boat. Packages available on request.

### PACIFIC NORTH OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

(800) 663-4232, (604) 248-9681 • Dives central Vancouver Island. PADI 5-star facility located at Bayside Inn. Packages: 2-tank dive on fast boat, 6 divers max., lunch, \$CAN75. 2 nights, 2, breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner, two 2-tank boat dives, tax included, \$CAN265 per person, dbl. occ.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVING ADVENTURES

(604) 935-6711 • e-mail: [GPVRenewal@aol.com](mailto:GPVRenewal@aol.com) • Dives Discovery Passage, Campbell River, Desolation Sound, southern Gulf Islands and Port Hardy. Waterfront lodge with private rooms and hot tub, 42-foot comfortable, enclosed dive boat with easy entry and exit and sleeping accommodations. Package: 2 dives daily, 3 meals, snacks, refreshments, tanks and weights, accommodations, \$CAN150.

### PACIFIC SPIRIT CHARTERS LTD.

(800) 547-1291, (604) 723-1291 • Dives Barkley Sound, Port Hardy and all around Vancouver Island. Charter package: 11 people max., \$CAN1,750; \$CAN200 per person, per day.

### PORPOISE BAY CHARTERS

(800) 665-DIVE, (604) 885-5950 • Dives Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island. Specializes in wreck diving and owns waterfront bed and breakfast in Sechelt. Booking office: Dive Tourism B.C., (800) 663-6000. Dive packages start at \$CAN140 per day.

### SEA GOING ADVENTURES

(604) 461-3186, (604) 290-7667 • Dives the islands of Howe Sound, 30 minutes from Vancouver. Offers warm, comfortable boat diving on demand with no minimum number of divers required. Booking offices: Pacific Dive Travel International, (800) 770-DIVE, B.C. Dive Tourism, (800) 663-6000. Packages from \$60 per person, per day.

### SEASPORT SCUBA

(604) 885-9830 • e-mail: [seasport\\_scuba@sunshine.net](mailto:seasport_scuba@sunshine.net) • Dives *Chaudiere* and Skookumchuck Rapids. Offers nitrox fills, technical mixes and argon. Package: 2 boat dives, meals and accommodations, \$CAN135 per day.

### SIX GILL ADVENTURES LTD.

(800) 761-5661, (604) 723-6161 • e-mail: [sixgill@cedar.alberni.net](mailto:sixgill@cedar.alberni.net) • Dives Barkley Sound and Vancouver Island's west coast. Personalized dive packages/adventures catering to smaller groups. Booking offices: Leslie Jaquette, (206) 775-8880; Dolphin Travel, (604) 248-6124. Package: 3 days, 2 nights, 6-7 dives on wrecks, pinnacles and reefs, lodge accommodations, home-cooked meals, \$550 per person, based on group of 4.

### SUNSHINE COAST TOURS

(800) 870-9055, (604) 883-2280 • e-mail: [sunshine\\_coast\\_tours@sunshine.net](mailto:sunshine_coast_tours@sunshine.net) • Dives British Columbia, including Pender Harbor, Strait of Georgia, Malaspina Strait, Agamemnon Channel, Skookumchuck Rapids, Sechelt and Jervis Inlets. Easy access to Vancouver, offers a full range of dive sites, including technical sites. Weekend dive package: 4 dives, accommodations, meals, taxes included, \$199. Charter rates available.

### THE WET SHOP

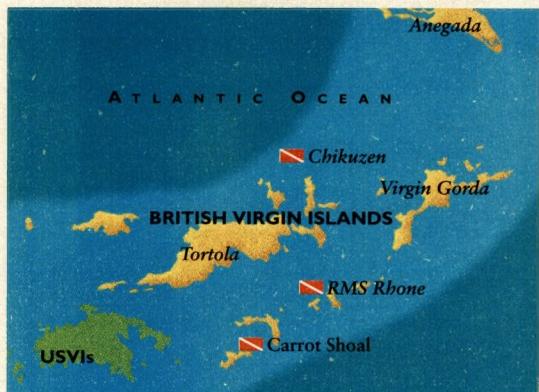
(800) 788-6371, (604) 921-6371 • Dives the wrecks of Porteau Cove, Whyte Cliff Park, The Cut at Whyte Cliff, Blayde Island and Copper Cove. Operates 7 days a week, located in Horseshoe Bay 5 minutes from dive sites, nitrox available. Booking office: Sun Diver Holidays, (800) 739-2092. Package: Boat charter, 2 dives, tanks and weights, \$45. Accommodations, \$58 per night, 5 person max.

## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

This collection of 50-plus volcanic islands sits atop a shallow seafloor shelf that stretches 60 miles east from Puerto Rico. Between the scrubby rocky islets, white billows of sail float dreamlike above the antique blue of Sir Francis Drake Channel. And that's it: No mass tourism on these secluded islands, and the laid-back Brits intend to keep it that way.

Diving in the BVI doesn't mean

drop-off drama, but it does offer understated thrills, like the islands themselves. Sudden caves and lava tubes, light-filled coral grottoes, a string of open-ocean pinnacles, and a maze of ledges coated with red and orange encrusting sponges that burst forth like a Crayola meltdown will have you saying "brill"—that's slang for rather awesome, dude.



### Reader Ratings British Virgin Islands



► **WEATHER:** Expect 75F to 85F daytime temperatures, depending on the season. Warm days cooled by trade winds at night.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** 75F to 79F in winter; 78F to 80F in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** A dependable 60 to 100 feet, with best vis around smaller islands, pinnacles and seamounts.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** One of the Caribbean's premier wrecks is also one of its oldest—the *RMS Rhone* has become a coral spawning ground since its sinking in 1867 and is now dripping with life. The *Chikuzen* provides open-ocean drama, a Pelagic Grand Central that also features schools of barracudas and gray snappers. *Carrot Shoal*, between Peter and Norman Islands, is a night-dive favorite, with nurse sharks, permits and guaranteed turtles.

### BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVE OPERATORS

#### BASKIN IN THE SUN

ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA • (800) 233-7938, (809) 494-

5854 • e-mail: [baskindive@aol.com](mailto:baskindive@aol.com) • internet: <http://www.dive-baskin.com> • Dives the BVI. Emphasis on customer service. 7 days, 8 nights, 10 boat dives, \$650. **BLUE WATER DIVERS**

ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA • (809) 494-2847 • Dives *RMS Rhone*, Indians, Blonde Rock, Santa Monica Rock, Painted Walls, Angel Fish Reef, The Dogs, The Chimney, Jost Van Dyke, Alice in Wonderland, Alice's Back Door and others. 40 years experience in the BVI, professional instructors, friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Package: 7 nights, six 2-tank dives, \$733 (dbl. occ.).

#### DIVE BVI

**VIRGIN GORDA** • (800) 848-7078, (809) 495-5513 • Dives *RMS Rhone* and *Chikuzen*, and from Norman Island to Virgin Gorda. Packages can be split among locations. 45-foot Wave Piercer. Best package: Includes accommodations at Leverick Bay Hotel, 10 dives, hotel tax and service charge, 1 to 10 people, \$665 per person; 11-20 people, \$620 per person.

#### KILBRIDES UNDERWATER TOURS

**VIRGIN GORDA** • (800) 932-4286, (809) 495-9638 • Dives the *RMS Rhone*, Ginger Island, Dog Islands, *Chikuzen*. Custom-built dive boat, friendly staff, custom video of your dive. Booking office: Bitter End Yacht Club, (800) 872-2392. Package at Bitter End Yacht Club, \$160 for 3 days; elsewhere, \$225 for 3 days, \$360 for 5 days.

#### UNDERWATER SAFARIS

ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA • (800) 537-7032, (809) 494-3235 • Dives the BVI, except Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Anegada. Offers rendezvous diving. Package: 7 nights at Maria's by the Sea, 5 days of diving, 1-day car rental, \$849 per person (Dec.-April); \$776 per person (April-Dec.).

#### LIVE-ABOARDS

#### CUAN LAW, YACHT PROMENADE

## CALIFORNIA

Along its 800 miles of coastline, the Golden State offers not only one of the world's richest marine ecosystems, but also one of the most diverse. From the craggy cliffs of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the north, to the seamounts and pinnacles of the Channel Islands archipelago in the south, California is a mecca for underwater photographers, game hunters, whale watchers and that strange breed of diver who likes to get inside aluminum cages and invite great whites to try to eat them.

Sure, you've got your big stuff—dolphins, sharks, sea lions and migrating blue whales—but you've also got your macro stuff—a kaleidoscope world of hydrocorals, sea stars, anemones and 160 brands of nudibranchs. In between, flitting among the magic vines of California's kelp forests, are the game boys—lingcod, sheepshead, cabezon—and those tiny explosions of orange called garibaldi. Here's testimony that great diving doesn't always mean bathtub warm. Who needs that when you're nose-to-nose with a wolf eel?

► **WEATHER:** Check The Weather Channel. The long coast offers widely varying and sometimes unpredictable conditions.

### AVERAGE WATER TEMP:

Low to mid-50Fs in northern and central regions; low to high 60Fs in Southern California.

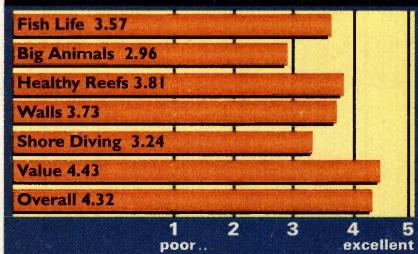
### VISIBILITY:

Varies depending on location, seasonal variations and weather. Count on average vis of 50 feet offshore, 20 feet nearshore. Days of 100-foot clarity possible.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Grab your tool: Beneath the canopies of bull and palm kelp of Mendocino, some of California's largest abalone hide on the bouldered bottom of Noyo Cove. Site of our nation's largest marine sanctuary, Monterey Peninsula offers towering kelp forests, rocky reefs, sandy seafloors and marine life on a grand scale, from gaudy one-inch nudibranchs to the deep-blue gods—migrating whales. In the Channel Islands, let one of the L.A.-area's day boats ferry you to the sea lion rookery of Santa Barbara or the blue-water pelagics of San Clemente.



### Reader Ratings California



### CALIFORNIA DIVE OPERATORS

#### ARGO DIVING SERVICES

AVALON, CATALINA ISLAND • (310) 510-2208 • Dives Catalina Island. Home of Rodale's Scuba Diving's Scuba-Lab, offers shark dives, personal service, experience on Catalina. Best package: Full-day charter for up to 6 divers, \$500, includes tanks and weights, food and drinks.

#### ALL SEASON CATALINA ISLAND CHARTER BOAT

AVALON, CATALINA ISLAND • (800) 296-6256, (310) 510-2720 • Dives Catalina Island. Offers personal service and open-ocean shark dive expeditions. Package: 1 day diving, 1 night hotel, \$195 per person, dbl. occ.

#### ANACAPA DIVE CENTER

SANTA BARBARA • (805) 963-8917 • Boat charters to the Channel Islands and shore diving available. PADI 5-star facility, offers on-site pool, repair facility. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Custom-tailored dive pack-

ages available.

#### ATLANTIS CHARTERS

**SUNSET BEACH • (310) 592-1154** • Dives Catalina, San Clemente, Santa Barbara and San Nicolas Islands. Offers professional service and a 65-foot dive boat. Booking office: Wind and Sea Cruises, (800) 588-1065. Best package: Catalina trip, 3 dives, open boat, breakfast, lunch, snacks, drinks and air fills, \$54.95.

#### AVALON AQUATICS

**AVALON, CATALINA ISLAND • (800) MR-SCUBA, (310) 510-1225** • Dives Catalina and the other Channel Islands. Offers small groups and shark, blue-water and mammal dives. Custom-tailored packages. Sample: 2 nights/3 days, 1 day boat diving and 1 day shore diving, \$335 per person.

#### BEACH HOPPER II

**SAN RAFAEL • (800) 806-2345, (415) 479-4332** •

Dives Monterey Bay, Carmel Bay to Point Sur. Limits groups to 10 divers max., offers personalized services. 2-tank dive, \$65.

#### CATALINA DIVERS SUPPLY

**AVALON, CATALINA ISLAND • (800) 353-0330, (310) 510-0330** • Internet: <http://www.catalina.com/CDS.html> • Dives Catalina Island. Offers large supply of rental gear, snorkel tours, rents tanks and offers air fills and weights. Also rents snorkel gear at Lovers Cove Marine Preserve. Booking office: PADI Travel Network.

#### CATALINA SCUBA LUV

**AVALON, CATALINA ISLAND • (800) 262-DIVE, (310) 510-2350** • e-mail: [prneptune@aol.com](mailto:prneptune@aol.com) • Dives the Catalina kelp forests. 2 dive boats operate year-round, offers large photo department and shark dives. Booking offices: PADI Travel Network or Island Charters, (310) 510-2616. Best package: 2 nights hotel, round-trip trans-

portation to the island, 1 day of boat diving, tanks and weights, meals, \$200 per person.

#### DIVING CHARTERS, INC.

**MORENO VALLEY • (909) 242-1420** • e-mail: [diving@pe.net](mailto:diving@pe.net) • Internet: <http://www.pe.net/~diving> • Dives the Channel Islands. Tanks, weights and meals included. Packages: 2- and 3-day dive trips, including all meals, accommodations, unlimited diving, \$200-\$225 (2 days); \$300-\$340 (3 days).

#### LOIS ANN DIVE CHARTERS

**SAN DIEGO • (619) 450-4478** • e-mail: [LolsAnnDC@aol.com](mailto:LolsAnnDC@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.3routes.com/scuba/LoisAnn.html> • Dives La Jolla, Point Loma kelp forests, Wreck Alley and Los Coronados Islands. Offers experienced and knowledgeable services. #2 best boat dive in RSD's Readers' Ratings 2 years in a row. Best packages: 3 dives, tanks and weights, food and soft drinks, \$65; 4 dives, tanks and weights, food and soft drinks, \$85.

#### PACIFIC STAR

**(800) 560-DIVE, (408) 646-8856** • e-mail: [ldlrvw@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ldlrvw@ix.netcom.com) • Dives the Monterey area. 65-foot boat with 24 buoys.

#### RC DIVERS/AMERICA II CHARTERS

**SAN DIEGO • (619) 584-0742** • Dives San Diego's Wreck Alley and the kelp forests of Point Loma and La Jolla. Offers small groups and individual service, 16 years experience in San Diego and 13 years as NAUI dive instructor. Booking offices: Diving Locker, (619) 272-1120; Islandia Sportfishing Landing, (619) 222-1164. Best package: half-day, 2-tank dives to Wreck Alley and kelp forest, tanks and weights, snacks and soft drinks, \$47.50 per person; group rates available.

#### SPECTRE

**VENTURA • (805) 483-6612** • Dives the northern Channel Islands. Specializes in local 3- and 4-tank 1-day trips. Close proximity to dive sites and islands means less travel time and more dive time. Booking office: Be-Dive-Ready, (800) 488-0207. Best package: 1-day, 3-dive trip to Anacapa Island, lunch and air included, \$55 (weekdays), \$65 (weekends).

#### TRUTH AQUATICS

**SANTA BARBARA • (805) 962-1127** • Dives the Channel Islands. Offers custom dive boats staffed by professional crews. Best package: 2-day to 5-day trips, including nonalcoholic drinks, snacks, meals, air fills and bunks, \$125 per day.

#### VENTURA DIVE & SPORT

**VENTURA • (805) 650-6500** • Dives the Channel Islands. PADI 5-star center, on-site heated pool, single and multiday dive trips, all levels of training, rentals. Best package: 1-day, 4-dive charter boat trip, includes rental gear to local dive boats, \$68 (weekends).

#### WESTERLY

**SAN PEDRO • (310) 833-6048** • Dives southern Channel Islands. Caters to small groups, day diving. 55-foot boat. 2- and 3-day charters available. Best package: 2-day trip, unlimited diving, breakfast, lunch and dinner, \$2,400 for 15 divers.

#### LIVE-ABOARD

#### HORIZON CHARTERS

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

**S**ome of the biggest winners in this year's Readers' Choice Awards were these small islands. The Caymans—especially Little Cayman—took top honors in the Caribbean in a host of categories: best fish life, healthiest reefs, best wall diving and best overall destination. The reasons why are as clear as the waters that surround these three British islands: the festooned walls of the submerged Sierra Maestra mountains, whose exposed tips provide dry land, and whose steep flanks make alpine divers of us all.

Grand Cayman is the granddaddy of

# Scenery to dive for.

Everyday, Red Sail Sports takes divers to the best dive spots in the Caribbean and Pacific. Dive Cayman's incredible walls, explore lava flows in Hawaii and swim through underwater wrecks in Aruba and Curaçao.

Red Sail Sports dive operations feature custom-built dive boats, the latest equipment, fresh water showers and chilled fruit and juice. Our experienced dive staff will ensure that your trip is the perfect combination of adventure and luxury.

#### Red Sail Sports is now open in Curaçao!

Dive packages ranging from budget to first-class accommodations starting at \$288 for a 4 day/3 night stay. Call today, 800-255-6425!

Hotel rate example is for the Seaview Hotel in Grand Cayman, per person based on double occupancy, 5/1-10/15/96.

**AmericanAirlines®**  
*Something special in the air.*

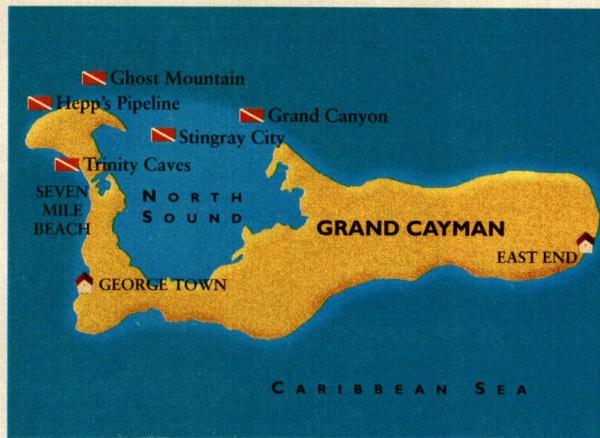
**red sail sports**

ARUBA THE BAHAMAS CURAÇAO GRAND CAYMAN HAWAII

CIRCLE NO. 53 ON READER SERVICE CARD

**800-255-6425**

*Luxurious adventure in the world's most spectacular waters.*



Caribbean wall diving, a clean and safe Miami Beach with exquisite resorts, duty-free shopping and one of the world's grand strands: Seven Mile Beach. Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are just a short plane hop and about 50 years away. Both offer old-style Caribbean and this hemisphere's greatest bastion of coral: Bloody Bay Wall, a cliff that begins shallow and drops like a runaway elevator into the endless blue of the Cayman Trench. You'll pump so much adrenaline on your first visit that you'll need sleeping pills that night.

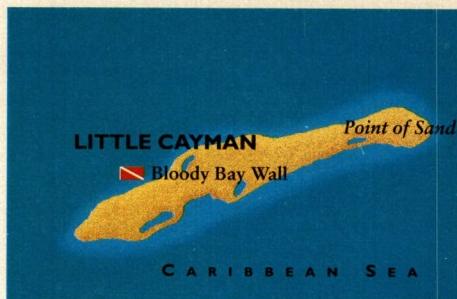
► **WEATHER:** Mild year-round, with air temps in the 70Fs in winter and mid- to high 80Fs in summer.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** 77F in winter; 82F in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Outstanding, averaging 100 feet year-round. Expect 80 feet in winter and bouts of 200 in summer.

► **GREAT DIVES:** Grand Cayman's North and West Walls are home to sites that have defined

Caribbean wall diving for a generation: Trinity Caves, Hepp's Pipeline, Ghost Mountain, Grand Canyon. Any need to



mention Stingray City?

Cayman Brac offers its own ring of sites and easy access to the drop-offs that beckon all divers worth their microprocessors: Little Cayman's Bloody Bay Wall, home of human-size sponges pointing the way down to the



#### Reader Ratings Cayman Islands



## DIVE THE BEST WALLS IN THE CARIBBEAN



MARTIN J. SUTTON



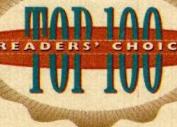
WAYNE HASSETT

### LITTLE CAYMAN & CAYMAN BRAC

*2 Beautiful Islands · 4 Magnificent Walls*

For more information look for our special insert  
in Rodale's June issue & call:

**1-800-346-3313**



Best Wall Dives Caribbean  
1. Little Cayman  
2. Cayman Brac

## Cayman Islands

two-mile bottom of the Cayman Trench. And don't miss Eagle Ray Roundup, these islands' answer to all those stingray ads.

### CAYMAN DIVE OPERATORS

#### AMBASSADOR DIVERS

**GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 648-7748, (809) 949-8839 • Dives Grand Cayman's north, south and west sides. Caters to small groups. Booking office: Ultimate Dive Travel, (800) 737-DIVE.

#### AQUANAUTS DIVING

**SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 357-2212, (809) 945-1990 • e-mail: aquanaut@candw.ky •

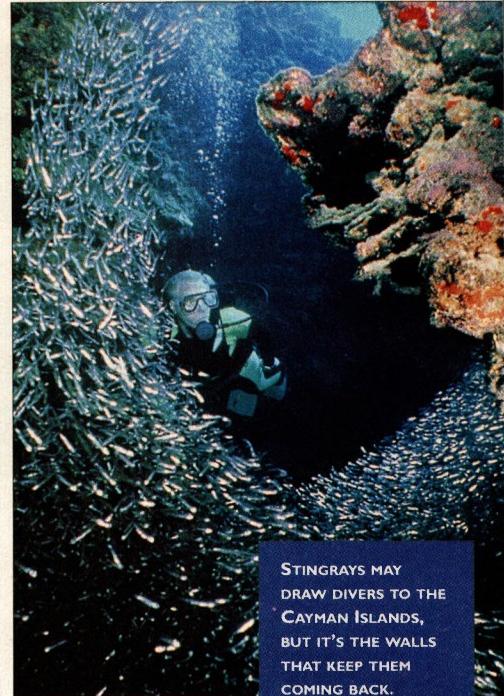
Dives Grand Cayman's north, west and south sites. Offers personalized service, small groups. Booking offices: Moore Tours; Tropical Adventures Travel; Underwater Phantaseas, (303) 986-6126. Best package: 6 nights, 5 days diving, condo, \$799 per person, dbl. occ.; hotel, \$475 per person, dbl. occ.

#### BRAC AQUATICS LTD.

**CAYMAN BRAC** • (800) 544-2722, (809) 948-1429 • Dives Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. 20 years of locally owned and operated professional diving services. Best package: \$895; call for details.

#### BRAC REEF/REEF DIVERS

**CAYMAN BRAC** • (800) 327-3835, (813) 323-8727 • e-mail: refz79a@prodigy.com • More than 30 sites, including Bloody Bay Wall, Tarpon Reef, Wilderness Wall, Green House and East Chute. 3-tank dives each day, 2 new Newton boats. Booking offices: Adventure Tours,



STINGRAYS MAY DRAW DIVERS TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, BUT IT'S THE WALLS THAT KEEP THEM COMING BACK.

CATHY CHURCH



Treasure Island  
DIVERS  
GRAND CAYMAN, B.W.I.

# UNLIMITED DIVING!

If you're going on vacation to dive, don't let a limited budget stop you. Dive as much as you like - within the safety limits, of course - but don't spend a lot of money!



Unlimited Diving Package	Cost if Full Price*	Savings
3 days diving	\$200	\$360
4 days diving	\$265	\$480
5 days diving	\$330	\$600
6 days diving	\$400	\$720
*For one 2-tank a.m. dive and one 2-tank p.m. dive		

**Cayman Direct 1-800-872-7552**  
For complete vacation planning, including Air & Accommodations  
FAX 809-949-7125 Some restrictions apply, holiday weeks excluded.  
Must be pre-booked and pre-paid. Offer valid through June 15, 1996.

CIRCLE NO. 56 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Caribbean Dive Tours, Go Diving, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 nights, all-inclusive, \$1,312 per person.

#### CAPITOL'S SURFSIDE WATERSPORTS

**SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN** • (809) 949-7330 • Dives Grand Cayman's south, north and west walls and Stingray City. 25 years of experience, friendly and fun staff, uncrowded boats. Dive packages vary depending on the season. Call for details and prices.

#### CAYMAN DIVE COLLEGE

**SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN** • (809) 949-4125 • Shore diving only, from the Seaview Hotel. Teaching facility, multilingual instructors teach open-water through divemaster courses. Stay at Seaview Hotel, get one free shore dive per day.

#### CAYMAN DIVING LODGE

**EAST END, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) TLC-DIVE, (809) 947-7555 • Dives east end of Grand Cayman, Stingray City. Beachfront dedicated dive lodge, all services on-site, all-inclusive packages, only dive lodge on east end, uncrowded boats. Booking office: Ultimate Dive Travel, (800) 737-3483. Packages: 3 nights, \$402 per person, dbl. occ.; 5 nights, \$743; 7 nights, \$1,084.

#### CAYMAN MARINE LAB

**SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN** • (809) 916-0849 • Dives Grand Cayman's north, west and south dive sites. Free marine biology lessons during surface intervals.

#### DIVE INN LTD.

**GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 322-0321, (809) 949-0321 • Dives north, west and south sides of Grand Cayman. Transports equipment to and from boat. Best package: 5 nights at the Sleep Inn and diving, \$502 per person, standard room.

#### DIVE 'N STUFF

**SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN** • (809) 949-6033 • Dives the north, south and west sides and Stingray City. Offers over 25 years of diving services with an experienced and professional staff, offers personalized service. Booking office: Aqua Hut, (419) 476-3100. Best package: Book four 2-tank dives, get the first one free.

#### DIVE TIARA/PETER HUGHES

**CAYMAN BRAC** • (800) 367-3484, (809) 948-1553 • e-mail: stevo@candw.ky • Dives more than 50 sites off Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Crew handles gear, packages include 3 boat dives daily, small groups. Booking offices: Caradonna Caribbean Tours; Divi Holidays, (800) 948-1553; Go Diving; PADI Travel Network; Poseidon Venture Tours; Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages may vary. Best package: 7 nights, 6 days of 3-tank boat dives, breakfast and dinner, transfers, taxes and service charges, \$1,100 per person, dbl. occ.

#### DON FOSTER'S DIVE CAYMAN

**SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 83-

## Cayman Islands

**DIVER**, (809) 949-7181/5679 • e-mail: [103304.223@compuserve.com](mailto:103304.223@compuserve.com) • Dives Grand Cayman's north, west and south walls and Stingray City. Custom-built dive boats, friendly and professional dive services, and safe and fun dive experiences. Booking office: (800) 83-DIVER, (214) 722-6511. Best package: 7 nights at the Radisson, 6 days diving, six 2-tank boat dives, free air fills for shore diving, tanks and weights, \$1,079.99 per person, dbl. occ. (summer).

### EDEN ROCK DIVING CENTER

**GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN** • (809) 949-7243 • e-mail: [edenrock@candw.ky](mailto:edenrock@candw.ky) • Dives the north, south and west walls, Stingray City, Eden Rocks, Devil's Grotto and wrecks. Offers shore diving. Best package: 5 days/6 nights, \$700.

### FISHEYE OF CAYMAN

**SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 887-8569, (809) 947-4209 • e-mail: [fisheye@candw.ky](mailto:fisheye@candw.ky) • internet: <http://www.fisheye.com> • Dives all around Grand Cayman. Small groups, emphasis on personal attention and Nikon-sanctioned photo center. Best package: 8 days, 7 nights at the Windjammer Hotel, 6 days of diving, unlimited shore diving, free use of underwater camera, free locker, free pickup, \$599.

### INDIES DIVERS

**GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 654-3130, (809) 947-5025 • Dives north and west walls, Stingray City. Offers spacious boats with 12-diver max., personal service. Booking office: Moore Tours. Best package: Accommodations in 1-bedroom suite, 2-tank dive, tax, \$146.50 per person, per day (April 15-Dec. 15).

### LITTLE CAYMAN BEACH RESORT/REEF DIVERS

**LITTLE CAYMAN** • (800) 327-3835, (809) 948-1033 • e-mail: [refz79a@prodigy.com](mailto:refz79a@prodigy.com) • Dives Bloody Bay Wall, Nancy's Cup of Tea, Marilyn's Cut, Mixing Bowl, Randy's Gazebo, Fisheye Fantasea and Jackson Reef. Personal service, 3-tank dives each day and 2 new Newton dive boats. Booking offices: Adventure Tours, Caribbean Dive Tours, Go Diving, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7-night, all-inclusive dive packages, from \$1,560 per person.

### NEPTUNE'S REALM DIVERS

**GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN** • (809) 949-6444 • Dives all sites in Grand Cayman, including Stingray City. Eight divers max., offers personal service. Call for package prices.

### PARADISE DIVERS

**LITTLE CAYMAN** • (800) 450-2084, (809) 948-0004 • Dives Bloody Bay, Jackson Bay, Preston Bay. Offers personal, experienced service. Booking office: KJ Dive Adventures. Best package: 9 paid divers, 10th person dives free. Call for diving and lodging packages.

### PARROTS LANDING WATERSPORTS PARK

**GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 448-0428, (809) 949-7884 • Dives Grand Cayman's north, west and south walls and Stingray City. Offers a wide variety of diving, including guided, advanced, computer and shore. Cayman fall promotion: airfare from Miami, accommodations and diving, from \$525 to \$925.

### PIRATES POINT RESORT

**LITTLE CAYMAN** • (800) 327-8777, (809) 948-1010 • Dives Bloody Bay Wall, south and east walls, and Jackson Wall. Caters to both beginning and advanced divers. New 42-foot Newton dive boat, 20 divers max., with camera tables and freshwater shower. Weekly all-inclusive packages: \$1,300 per person (Dec. 15-April 15); \$1,050 per person (April 15-Dec. 15).

### QUABBIN DIVES

**GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 238-6712, (809) 949-5597 • Dives north wall, west and south sides, and Stingray City. Offers small groups on a spacious boat, customized diving, hotel pickup and computer rentals. Ten percent discount on 4 days or more of diving, tanks and weights included, and unlimited shore diving.

### RED SAIL SPORTS

**GRAND CAYMAN** • (800) 255-6425, (809) 947-5965 • e-mail: [redsail@candw.ky](mailto:redsail@candw.ky) • Dives Grand Cayman's north and west walls. Offers spacious custom-designed dive boats and a commitment to professional diving services. Various packages at the Hyatt Regency, Westin Casuarina, Clarion Hotel, Seaview Hotel and Christopher Columbus Condominiums. Best package: 8 days, 7 nights at the Clarion, 6 days of 2-tank dives, 1 night dive, unlimited shore diving, \$1,050 per person, dbl. occ. (April-Dec.).

### SAM MCCOY'S DIVING LODGE

**LITTLE CAYMAN** • (800) 626-0496, (809) 948-0026 • Dives sites around Little Cayman. Experienced native

# A Few Feet From Here Lies A Spectacular Adventure.



Dive breathtaking walls. Swim in waters teeming with wildlife. Explore a Caribbean island paradise. And after a day like that, you can relive it all with friends around the outdoor tiki bar before adjourning to a magnificent meal. Then it's back to your spacious oceanview room to dream of the next day's adventures. Call us for the adventures that await you.

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BEACH RESORT**  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

For information & reservations call: 1-800-327-3835 or 813-323-8727 Fax 813-323-8827

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Located just minutes from first-class dive sites, duty-free shopping and fine dining. Ideal for those seeking excitement and relaxation both above and beneath the waves.



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*Absolute  
Hospitality*

## Clarion Grand Pavilion

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P.O. Box 30117, Grand Cayman • Cayman Island, BWI

CIRCLE NO. 50 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## Cayman Islands

divemasters.

### SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB

LITTLE CAYMAN • (800) 899-2582, (809) 948-1099 • e-mail: sthnclb@candw.ky • Dives Bloody Bay, Jackson Bay and all sites on Little Cayman. Gourmet food in an intimate island setting. 10 divers max. on boats, on-site

dock. Best package: 7 nights, 6 2-tank dives, all meals, airport transfers, \$1,120 per person, dbl. occ.

### SUNSET DIVERS

GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN • (800) 854-4767, (809) 949-7111 • Dives the north, south, east and west and Stingray City. Experienced staff, shore diving, 7 custom dive boats, computer diving. Booking offices: Caradonna Caribbean Tours; Certified Vacations, (800) 233-7260; Funway Holidays, (800) 558-3050; Go Diving; Liberty GoGo, (800) 899-2558; Moore Tours; PADI Travel Network; Scuba Network, (800) 688-3483; Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 5 nights, 4 days of boat diving, free shore diving, full breakfast, airport transfers, tax, \$610 per person, dbl. occ.

### SUNSET

### UNDERWATER PHOTO CENTRE AND GALLERY

GRAND CAYMAN • (809) 949-7415 • e-mail: cathy@cathy-church.com • internet: http://www.cathy-church.com • Underwater photography school that offers photo instruction and Nikons repair.

### TREASURE ISLAND DIVERS

SEVEN MILE BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN • (800) 872-7552, (809) 949-4456 • Dives all sides of Grand Cayman. Friendly staff. Custom-tailored packages.

### LIVE-ABOARDS

CAYMAN AGGRESSOR III, LITTLE CAYMAN DIVER II

**Little Cayman, BWI**  
800-899-CLUB (2582)  
(809) 948-1099/Fax: (809) 948-1098

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## CENTRAL AMERICA BAY ISLANDS, HONDURAS

In Roatan, there's one paved road that twists around the island's steep flanks. And that's it—the only road in all of the Bay Islands, a string of 65 subsea outcroppings surrounded by coral reefs. Together these islands are home to the greatest diversity of coral, sponge and invertebrate species in the Caribbean.

► **WEATHER:** Mild year-round; rarely above 90F in summer or below 75F in winter.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Varies from 78F in winter to 82F in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Windward reefs sometimes subject to current clouding; otherwise an average of 80 feet.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** At Peter's Place on Roatan, five species of grouper follow you around like puppies. Fight your way through clouds of silversides at Jim's Silver Lode off Guanaja for another grouper gulch. Utila's Black Hill is one of several hundred diveable open-ocean pinnacles.

### Reader Ratings Bay Islands



### BAY ISLANDS DIVE OPERATORS

#### ANTHONY'S KEY RESORT

ROATAN • (800) 227-3483, (305) 666-1997 • e-mail: bahia@gate.net • internet: http://www.empg.com/anthony's/key • Dives northwest, west and south sides of Roatan. More than 25 years experience, emphasis on service and personal attention. Booking offices: Bahia Tours, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 nights, accommodations, diving, meals, activities, \$600 per person.

#### BAY ISLANDS BEACH RESORT

ROATAN • (800) 4-ROATAN, (407) 624-5774 • Dives Roatan, including West End marine reserve and Sandy

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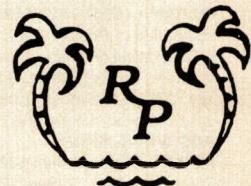
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fax 713-780-1726

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## RUM POINT INN



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**BELIZE**

CIRCLE NO. 32 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## Bay Islands

Bay. Offers personalized diving services, caters to groups. Best package: \$12,395 for group of 24.

### BAYMAN BAY CLUB

**GUANAJA** • (800) 524-1823 • e-mail: bayman@ix.netcom.com • internet: <http://www.bayman.lwm.com/bayman@ix.netcom.com> • Dives Guanaja. Private bay and beach on the lee side, kayaking, reef diving from shore, nature trails. Best package: 7 nights (through Dec. 20, excluding holiday weeks), \$749.

### COCO VIEW RESORT/DOCKSIDE DIVE CENTER

**ROATAN** • (800) 282-8932, (352) 588-4131 • Dives south side of Roatan. Dedicated dive operation, offers PADI certifications and specialties. 110-foot wall directly offshore. Booking office: Roatan Charters. Best package: \$775 per diver for 7 nights, includes 2 boat dives daily, unlimited shore diving, day and night.

### DOC'S DIVE SHOP

**ROATAN** • (011) 504-45-1322 • Dives the south side of Roatan. Limited to 2 divers. Best package: \$250 per day, per person, dbl. occ.

### FANTASY ISLAND BEACH RESORT

**ROATAN** • (800) 676-2826, (011) 504-45-1191 • Dives the northern and southern shore of Roatan. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: From April 11-June 11 and Sept. 15-Dec. 15: standard room, \$675, deluxe room, \$875.

### LAGUNA BEACH RESORT

**UTILA** • (800) 668-8452, (318) 893-0013 • Dives 40 sites. Full-service resort offers easy access to shore diving, private beach and waterfront rooms. Booking offices: Go Diving; Poseidon Venture Tours; Bahia Tours; Caradonna Caribbean Tours; Utila Tours, (800) 66-UTILA; Roatan Charter, (800) 282-8932. Best package: 8 days/7 nights, 3 meals daily, 3 boat dives daily, 2 night dives weekly, unlimited shore diving, airport transfer, call for price.

### OFF THE WALL DIVERS AND ECOSPORTS

**ROATAN** • (800) 315-2613, (011) 504-45-5525 • Dives the Great Southern Reef, East End and offshore banks and seamounts. Offers fast boats, small groups, kayak diving and special dives. Booking office: BZ Travel, (800) 382-7776. Best package: 7 nights, 5 days diving, accom-

modations, breakfast, airport transfers, \$475.

### PLANTATION BEACH RESORT

**LA CEIBA** • (800) 628-3723, (011) 504-42-0974 • Dives Cayos Cochinos, Bay Islands, offshore seamounts. Only resort on private island, Pro 42 dive boat, exclusive dive operation for local biological reserve and marine park. Booking office: A-1 Scuba & Travel Center, (800) 783-7282, (303) 789-2450. Best package: \$795 per person, per week. Call for group discounts and special rates.

### POSADA DEL SOL

**GUANAJA** • (800) 642-3483, (407) 624-3483 • Dives the Bay Islands. Best package: \$950. Call for details.

### REEF HOUSE RESORT

**ROATAN** • (800) 328-8897, (210) 681-2888 • Dives both shores of Roatan, Barbareta Island. Wall dive accessible from stone jetty in front of resort. Booking offices: Bahia Tours, Caribbean Adventures, Maduro Dive Fanta-Seas, Tropical Travel. Best package: 7 nights, all meals, 2 boat dives daily, 1 night dive, unlimited shore diving, \$775 per person, dbl. occ.

### ROMEO'S DIVE & YACHT CLUB

**ROATAN** • (800) 535-DIVE (011) 504-45-1127/1337 • Dive various reefs and wrecks. Trips to Punta Gorda, picnics on beach, kayaks, sunset cruises. Booking offices: Avanti Destinations, (503) 295-1100; Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel; A.I.T., (800) 553-2488; Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: \$450 per person (plus 7 percent tax); some restrictions may apply.

### SEAGRAPE PLANTATION RESORT DIVE CENTER

**ROATAN** • (800) 298-9009, (011) 504-45-1717 • Dives Roatan, West End and south shore. Shore diving on premises, caters to small groups, no additional charge for singles. Booking office: Scuba Ventures. Best package: 8 days/7 nights, 3 dives per day, unlimited shore diving, 3 meals per day, transfers, 1 night dive, \$599.

### SUNRISE ROATAN

**ROATAN** • (800) 934-DIVE, (011) 504-45-1265 • e-mail: caribadv@ix.netcom.com • Dives northern barrier reef. Booking office: Caribbean Adventures. Best package: 7 nights, \$575.

### UTILA LODGE RESORT/ BAY ISLANDS

**COLLEGE OF DIVING**  
**UTILA** • (800) 282-8932, (011) 504-45-3143 • Dives all sides of Utila Island, including walls, reefs, seamounts, pinnacles. PADI 5-star facility, fast boats, personalized and customized service, E-6 processing, instruction. Booking office: Roatan Charter. Best package: 7 days/6 nights, 5 days of diving, food, accommodations, \$525 per person, dbl. occ.

### UTILA REEF RESORT

**UTILA** • (800) 263-9876, (011) 504-261-7368 • Dives seamounts, walls and mooring sites around Utila. Offers shore diving, personal service, caters to small groups. Best package: 7 nights with \$20 bar tab credit, \$865.

### LIVE-ABOARDS

**BAY ISLANDS AGGRESSOR, WIND DANCER/ PETER HUGHES, ISLA MIA**

## BELIZE

The Central American coastline between Mexico

and Guatemala is protected by a 185-mile-long barrier reef, second longest in the world. In the north, Ambergris Caye is home to a clutch of popular diving resorts. Outside the barrier reef are three coral atolls—Lighthouse, Glover's Reef and Turneffe Island—that are isolated getaways. Inside the less-visited southern end of the reef is a rare faro reef system.

► **WEATHER:** Mild year-round, with temperatures rarely higher than 90F in the summer or below 75F in winter.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Varies from 78F in the winter to 82F in the summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Offshore waters offer 100 feet of visibility or better in the late spring and summer, although plankton and storms can lower visibility on the atolls to 50 feet or less.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Deep divers will love the rocky interior of the Great Blue Hole inside Lighthouse Reef. Northern Reef Drop-off is a virgin wall on the southern end of the barrier reef that starts at 40 feet and drops to 3,000. Grouper Gulley off Glover's Reef is home to lazy nurse sharks, playful sea turtles and massive grouper.

### Reader Ratings Belize



### BELIZE OPERATORS

#### ADVENTURES IN WATERSPORTS

**AMBERGRIS CAYE** • (011) 501-26-3706 • Dives San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Hol Chan, Blue Hole, Turneffe Islands, Lighthouse Reef and Shark Ray Alley. Small groups of 8 divers max. (larger groups by arrangement), first-aid and oxygen on board. Booking office: That's The Ticket Tours, (800) 648-8990.

#### AMIGOS DEL MAR

**AMBERGRIS CAYE** • (011) 501-26-2706 • Dives Ambergris Caye, Turneffe Atoll and Lighthouse Reef. 18 years experience, guides knowledgeable about local waters. Booking office: Island Dreams. Packages vary.

#### BELIZE DIVE CENTER

**SAN PEDRO** • (011) 501-26-2777 • Dives San Pedro, Lighthouse Reef and Shark Ray Alley. Offers local 1-day and overnight trips to the Blue Hole. Booking office: Belize Dive Tours, (800) 938-0860. Call for rates.

#### BLUE HOLE DIVE CENTER

**AMBERGRIS CAYE** • (011) 501-262982 • e-mail: blue-hole@bt.com • Dives Ambergris Caye, Turneffe Islands, Lighthouse Reef and the Great Blue Hole. Offers professional services with a focus on quality and value for your diving experience. Custom-tailored diving packages.

#### BLUE MARLIN LODGE

**DANGRIGA** • (800) 798-1558, (011) 501-52-2243 • Dives the Barrier Reef and Glover's Reef Atoll. Located on the barrier reef and offers personalized services. Dive packages vary, 4 nights, \$825, dbl. occ.

#### BOTTOM TIME DIVE SHOP

**AMBERGRIS CAYE** • (713) 337-3758 • Dives Belize. Offers personal service. Booking office: BZ Travel Service, (800) 382-7776. Best package: 7 nights, 6 days diving, transfers, island flight, \$695.

# LAGUNA BEACH RESORT

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**L**aguna Beach Resort is the newest and most luxurious dive resort on Utila. Perched at the waters edge, bungalows feature private decks, hot water and air conditioning.

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CIRCLE NO. 27 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## Belize

### CAPTAIN MORGAN'S RETREAT

(800) 447-2931, (218) 847-3012 • Dives Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Turneffe Reef Atoll and Lighthouse Reef. Dive guide has 16 years experience in local waters. Best package: 7 nights at Captain Morgan's Retreat, 10 dives, breakfast and dinner, round-trip airfare from Miami, Houston or New Orleans, inter-island transfers, \$1,170 per person.

### CORAL BEACH HOTEL & DIVE CLUB

AMBERGRIS CAYE • (011) 501-26-2013 • e-mail: [forman@btl.net](mailto:forman@btl.net) • internet: <http://www.belize.com>. • Dives Half Moon Caye, Turneffe Island and Lighthouse Reef, including the Blue Hole. Overnight dive trips to Blue Hole on our 50-foot live-aboard *Off-Shore Express*. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days/6 nights, 5 days diving, accommodations, 2 meals, round-trip transfers from airport to San Pedro, \$650.

### DU PLOOY'S

SAN IGNACIO CAYO • (011) 501-92-3101 • Dives Belize. Jungle trips combined with diving packages. Booking office: Belize Dive Center, (305) 524-3629.

### FRENCHIE'S DIVING SERVICE

CAYE CAULKER • (011) 501-22-2234 • Dives the Belize Barrier Reef, Turneffe Island, Lighthouse Reef and Blue Hole. Offers highly experienced, professional diving services and a great variety of dive sites. Best package: 7 dives (includes Blue Hole and a night dive), \$275.

### JOURNEY'S END RESORT

AMBERGRIS CAYE • (800) 460-5665, (713) 780-1566 • e-mail: [journyend@neosof.com](mailto:journyend@neosof.com) • Dives Belize reef, Blue Hole, Lighthouse Reef, Turneffe Island. Offers professional diving services in the remote locations of Ambergris Caye.

### LIGHTHOUSE REEF RESORT

LIGHTHOUSE ATOLL • (800) 423-3114, (941) 439-6600 • Dives reefs around Lighthouse Atoll, Blue Hole. Offers suites, air-conditioned, 25-minute flight to resort.

### MANTA RESORT

SOUTHWEST CAYE, GLOVER'S REEF • (011) 501-32767 • Dives Glover's Reef Atoll. Private island, only dive operation in area. Booking office: Scuba Company, (800) 326-1724. Best package: \$1,295 per person, dbl. occ.

### NAUTICAL INN RESORT/NAUTI-ONE DIVE SHOP

PLACENCIA • (800) 688-0377 • Dives southern reefs and cayes of Belize. Booking offices: Caribbean Adventures; Belize Dive Center, (800) 938-0860; Travel Belize, (303) 494-7797. Best package: 7 nights, 5 days of 2-tank dives, room, meals, tax and service charges, \$1,014 per person.

### RAMON'S VILLAGE DIVE SHOP

AMBERGRIS CAYE • (800) 624-4215, (011) 501-2071 • Dives Belize Barrier Reef, outer atolls, Turneffe and Lighthouse. 2 full-time instructors, emphasis on safety, NAUI Dream Resort and PADI International Resort. Booking offices: Ocean Connection, Tropical Travel Representatives. Best package: 8 days/7 nights, including accommodations, tax, breakfast, 6 days of 2-tank dives, \$730.95 per person, dbl. occ. (May 15-Dec. 15).

### REEF DIVERS, LTD.

AMBERGRIS CAYE • (011) 501-26-3134 • Dives 26 miles of barrier reef adjacent to Ambergris Caye. Experienced operator offers full-service diving on Ambergris Caye. Booking offices: Ocean Connection, Best of Belize & Beyond, Tropical Concepts, Poseidon Venture Tours, Go Diving, International Diving Expeditions. Best package: 2-tank dive, \$45.

### RUM POINT DIVERS

PLACENCIA • (011) 501 62-3239 • e-mail: [rupel@btl.net](mailto:rupel@btl.net) • Dives southern Belize. Offers 42-foot fully equipped dive boat, fully outfitted dive shop, new equipment. Booking office: Toucan Travel. Best package: 7 nights, 5 days of 2-tank diving, private cabana, 3 meals daily, taxes and service charges, \$1,510 (sgl. occ.), \$1,058 (dbl. occ.), \$1,007 (triple occ.) per person.

### ST. GEORGE'S LODGE

ST. GEORGE'S CAYE • (800) 678-6871, (011) 501-212121 • e-mail: [aw2travel2bz@world.com](mailto:aw2travel2bz@world.com) • Dives barrier reef at St. George's Caye. Closest dive operation to mainland Belize, 18 years in business, nitrox, thatched cottages in intimate setting over water, 10-15 minutes to dive sites. \$1,349 per person, per week, includes transfers, meals, 3 dives daily, tips and taxes.

### SOULSHINE RESORT

PLACENCIA • (800) 890-6082, (860) 767-7849 • internet: <http://www.soulshine.com> • Dives reefs around Laughing Bird Caye, dives with manatees. Small operation, 2 to 4 divers max., private island, only swimming pool in area. Call for package rates.

# 110 foot wall

a snorkel away from the bar

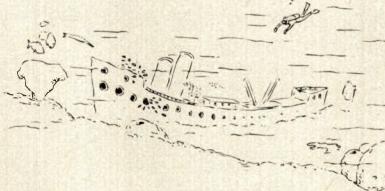


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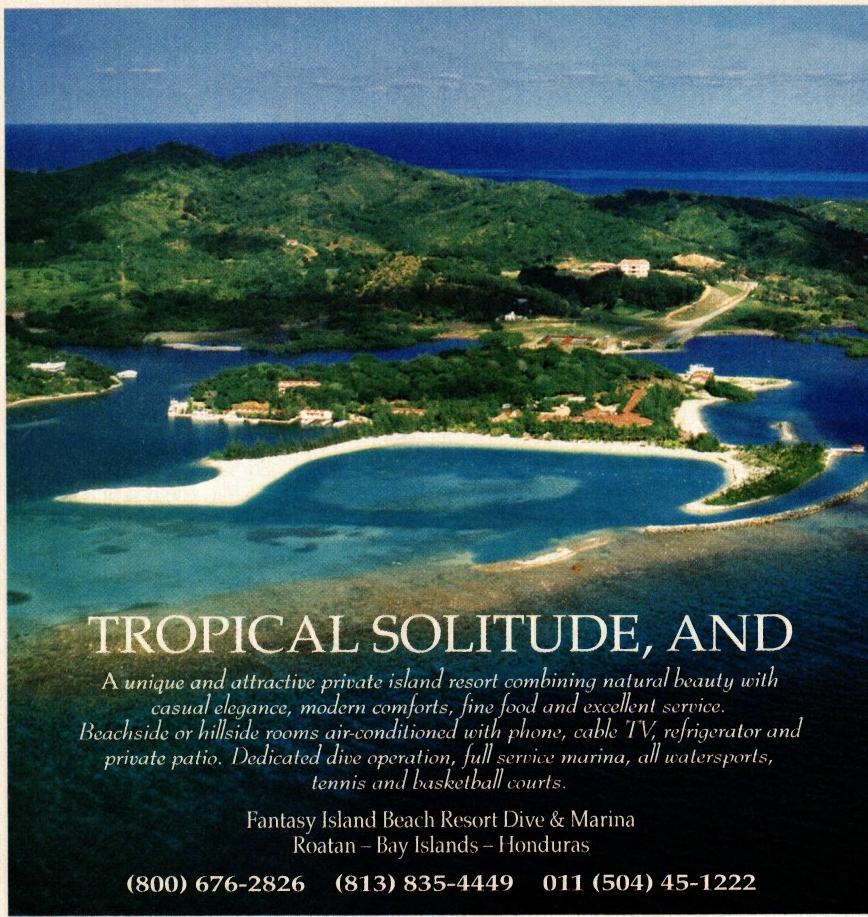
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CIRCLE NO. 29 ON READER SERVICE CARD



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Roatan - Bay Islands - Honduras

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### Belize

#### TURNEFFE FLATS

**TURNEFFE ATOLL** • (800) 815-1304 • Dives the Turneffe Atoll; day trip to Lighthouse Reef, including Blue Hole and Half Moon Wall. Offers fast, comfortable dive boats. Booking offices: Poseidon Venture Tours, Caribbean Adventures. All-inclusive, Saturday to Saturday, meals, lodging, diving and transfers, call for price.

#### TURNEFFE ISLAND LODGE

(800) 874-0118, (770) 536-3922 • Dives south end of Turneffe Atoll, Blue Hole, Half Moon Caye. Full-service on-site dive operation, diving within 5 minutes of lodge. Best package: One-week accommodations, 16 dives, \$1,295.

#### VICTORIA HOUSE

**SAN PEDRO, AMBERGRIS CAYE** • (800) 247-5159, (504) 865-0717 • e-mail: victoria@bze.com • Dives Ambergris Caye. Small operation, casually elegant, emphasis on customer service. Best package: 7 nights, 4 days of diving, night dive, airfare to resort from Belize City, most meals, tax, gratuities, \$2,055 to \$3,320 for two people.

#### LIVE-ABOARDS

##### Belize

**BELIZE AGGRESSOR III, REMBRANDT VAN RIJN, TORTUGA DIVE CENTRE, WAVE DANCER/PETER HUGHES**

## COSTA RICA

**C**osta Rica is a crossroads—between North and South America, between colliding climactic systems, and between traditional travel and 1990s-style ecotourism. While most of the potential diving in Costa Rica remains untapped, operators are beginning to appear, especially on the Pacific coast.

► **WEATHER:** Mild year-round, with tem-

## GUANAJA - BAY ISLANDS

### POSADA DEL SOL



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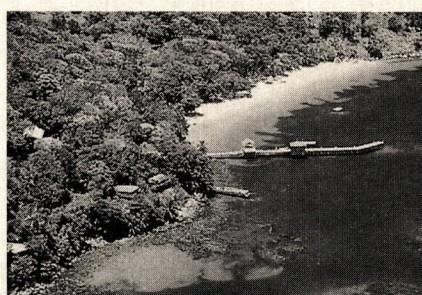
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CIRCLE NO. 28 ON READER SERVICE CARD

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FAX: (305)370-2276

CIRCLE NO. 25 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## Reader Ratings Costa Rica



peratures rarely exceeding 90F in summer or dipping below 75F in winter.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Dependably constant, from 78F in winter to 82F in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Windward reefs sometimes subject to clouding from currents; otherwise, an average of 80 feet.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Off the Pacific northwest coast, jacks, snappers, grouper, mantas and bull sharks converge on Murielagos Island. At the pinnacles of Punta Gorda, off El Ocostal, entire armies of eagle rays parade by. If you want reefs, head for the Caribbean coast's 1,500-acre coral garden off Cahuita.

### COSTA RICA OPERATORS

#### AGUILA DE OSA INN

PUNTARENAS • (011) 506-286-2180/232-7722 • e-mail: [aguilla@centralamerica.com](mailto:aguilla@centralamerica.com) • Dives Caño Island. Only operator in the area. Booking office: Adventure Dive Travel, (800) 938-9767.

#### BILL BEARD'S DIVING SAFARIS DE COSTA RICA

(011) 506-670-0012 • e-mail: [nbeard@iu.net](mailto:nbeard@iu.net) • Dives the Pacific northwest region of Costa Rica, including Playa Hermosa, Catalina Islands and Bat Islands. Offers packages with 7 resorts. Booking offices: Go Diving, Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 days/6 nights, 5 days of diving, \$588.

#### ECO TREKS ADVENTURE CO.

(011) 506-289-8191 • e-mail: [josbourn@sol.racsa.co.cr](mailto:josbourn@sol.racsa.co.cr) • Dives Flamingo Marina, the Catalina Islands, Cocos Island and Bat Islands. Other sports available, including sea kayaks, mountain bikes, jet skis, windsurfers and surfboards. Booking office: Caradonna Caribbean Tours. All-inclusive dive package, plus night dive, \$799.

#### EL OCOTAL DIVING SAFARIS

PLAYA OCOTAL, GUANACASTE • (011) 506-670-0321 • e-mail: [elocotal@sd-racsa.co.cr](mailto:elocotal@sd-racsa.co.cr) • Dives Papagayo Gulf and Guanacaste. Booking offices: Caradonna Caribbean Tours; Go Diving; Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel; Ocean Connection; PADI Travel Network; Tropical Adventures Travel; Tropical Travel Representatives. Best package: 6 days/5 nights, 3 days of 2-tank diving, transfers, breakfast daily, \$555 per person, dbl. occ.

#### RICH COAST DIVING CO.

PLAYA DEL COCO • (011) 506-670-0716 • e-mail: [scubavoy@ix.netcom.com](mailto:scubavoy@ix.netcom.com) • Dives the Gulf of Papagayo, Bat Islands and Catalina Islands. Emphasizes service, including gear handling and travel assistance and arrangements. Small groups. Booking office: Scuba Voyages. Best package: 7 days/6 nights in air-conditioned room, 5 days of 2-tank dives, tanks and weights, breakfast and snacks, \$459 per person, dbl. occ.

#### LIVE-ABOARDS

Cocos Island • Costa Rica

OKEANOS AGGRESSOR, SEA HUNTER, UNDERSEA HUNTER

## PANAMA

#### EMERALD COAST DIVERS

(904) 233-3355 • e-mail: [ecdivers@aol.com](mailto:ecdivers@aol.com) • Dives Malpelo and Panama.

## EASTERN CARIBBEAN

**G**ood things come in small packages, and in the Eastern Caribbean, small-package islands form a gentle curve of good things that reaches from the Virgin Islands all the way to Venezuela. Each island offers its own version of the travel-brochure ideal: white-sand beaches, tropical rain forests, plung-

ing waterfalls and five-star resorts.

At least three of the islands—Saba, Dominica and Tobago—have gained some notoriety as divers' islands: Saba for its pinnacles and drop-offs, Dominica for its volcano crater and walls, and Tobago for its manta rays. But lesser known are the offshore treasures of islands like St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Anguilla, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

► **WEATHER:** Temperatures are nearly per-

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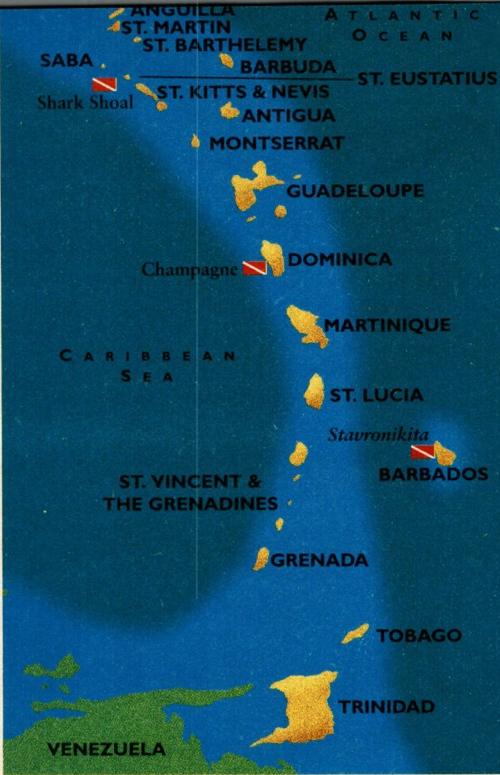
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CIRCLE NO. 23 ON READER SERVICE CARD



fect year-round, rarely dipping much below 70F in the winter or heating up much above 90F in the summer. Sometimes cool at night, especially in higher elevations of mountainous islands. Tropical showers can be expected throughout the year.

**AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Comfortable year-round, averaging 78F in the winter and 82F in the summer.

**VISIBILITY:** Excellent throughout the chain. Expect 80 to 100 feet in most places, though runoff from rivers on some islands can muddy the waters.

**THREE GREAT DIVES:** Barbados may be best-known for its beaches and resorts, but the 360-foot *Stavronikita* off Bridgetown is a world-class wreck dive that deserves some attention of its own. At Champagne, a one-of-a-kind dive site off Dominica, hot water bubbles out of the reef to create a natural jacuzzi. Caves, overhangs, deep-water gorgonians and big fish make Saba's Shark Shoal one of the most photogenic dive sites in the region, even when the big boys are a no-show.

#### EASTERN CARIBBEAN DIVE OPERATORS

##### Anguilla

###### THE DIVE SHOP/ANGUILLA LTD.

(809) 497-2020 • e-mail: [peabody@candw.co.ha](mailto:peabody@candw.co.ha) • Dives the wrecks and reefs off the northern coast of Anguilla. PADI 5-star facility, Platinum Pro 5000 instructor. Best package: 6-tank dive package, \$180; 10-tank package, \$300; includes tanks and weights.

##### Antigua

###### DIVE ANTIGUA

(809) 462-3483 • Dives Ariadne Shoals and Mike's Reef. Offers private, unmarked dive sites, exploratory dives, marine biology dives.

###### DOCKYARD DIVERS

(809) 460-1178 • Dives Antigua's south coast. 15 dive sites within one mile of shop; large retail outlet. Best packages: 7 days/6 nights, 10 dives, \$699 (suite); 7

days/6 nights, 10 dives, \$499 (contemporary). Add \$280 for breakfast and dinner.

###### JOLLY DIVE CLUB ANTIGUA

(809) 462-0061, EXT. 149 • Dives Antigua, including Cades Reef and English Harbor. Offers friendly, professional diving services and location close to Cades Reef. Booking office: Hayes & Jarvis Travel, (011) 4481-7419942. Best packages: 5 days, 10 dives including all equipment, \$310. 3 days, 6 dives including all equipment, \$150. 1-day resort course, \$75.

###### PIRATE DIVERS

(809) 462-6322 • Dives northeast Antigua. Small operator offers personalized diving services. Best package: Five 2-tank dives, meals, room, tax, \$1,100 per person.

##### Barbados

###### CORAL ISLE DIVERS

(809) 431-9068 • Dives Barbados's west and south coasts. Close to dive sites, 40-foot power dive catamaran, and nitrox and nitrox training. Booking office: Flagship Travel, (800) 329-8388. Best package: 4 nights, unlimited dives, transportation, meals not included, \$370 per person.

###### DIVE BOAT SAFARI

(809) 427-4350 • Dives various reefs and wrecks, including the *Stavronikita* and the *Berwyn*. Offers professional diving services at affordable prices and an extremely knowledgeable staff. Booking office: West Indian International Tours Ltd., (809) 428-1490.

###### EXPLORESUB BARBADOS LTD.

(809) 435-6542 • e-mail: [pado@sunbeach.net](mailto:pado@sunbeach.net) • internet: <http://www.world-traveler.com/barbados/explore.html> • Dives south and west coasts of Barbados. Mixes professionalism with friendliness. Best package: \$99 per person, per day, including accommodations, unlimited diving, transfers, car rental and restaurant discounts.

###### HIGHTIDE WATERSPORTS

(809) 432-0931 • internet: <http://www.world-traveler.com/barbados/high.html> • Dives the entire west coast from North Point to Needham's Point and various reefs and wrecks. Offers custom-tailored dives, high staff-to-diver ratio, personalized attention and gear handling. Best package: 2 boat dives, beach diving, tanks and weights, other watersports, transfers, \$96.

###### THE DIVE SHOP

(800) 348-3756, (809) 426-9947 • e-mail: [hardive@caribnet.net](mailto:hardive@caribnet.net) • internet: <http://www.lookup.com/homepages/61462/home.html> • Dives Castle Bank, The Muff, *Stavronikita*, Asta Reef, and other south and west coast reefs and wrecks. Also dives east coast in summer. 30 years experience, personal service and computer-friendly dives. Booking office: Dreamscape Dive Tours. Best package: Unlimited diving, boat dives, tanks and weights, accommodations, T-shirt and hat, farewell party, \$499.

##### Dominica

###### ANCHORAGE DIVE CENTER

ROSEAU • (809) 448-2638 • Dives the western coast of Dominica. Offers whale watches, full service, caters to smaller groups. Booking offices: Blue Lagoon, Inc., Caribbean Adventures, Go Diving. Best package: 5 days of diving, two meals daily, transfers, accommodations at Anchorage Hotel, \$899 per person.

###### DIVE CASTAWAYS

(809) 449-6244 • Dives the entire west coast of Dominica. Central location provides access to central and northern west coast sites as well as popular dive sites in the south. Hotel located on private beach. Booking office: Caribbean Adventures. Best package: 7 nights, five 2-tank dives, full breakfast, government tax and surcharge, complimentary rum punch, fresh fruit basket, tennis, \$741 per person, dbl. occ.

###### DIVE DOMINICA

(809) 448-2188 • Dives Scotts Head, Soufriere Bay area and Dominica's southwest area. Booking office: Scuba Voyages. Best package: 7 nights, breakfast and dinner every day, 10 dives, unlimited shore diving, airport transfers, taxes and service charges, \$799 per person, dbl. occ.

###### EAST CARIB DIVE

(809) 449-6575 • Dives Dominica's central west coast, day trips to the north and south. Caters to small groups on uncrowded boats. Booking office: Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures. Packages may vary. 10 dives, \$315. 7 nights

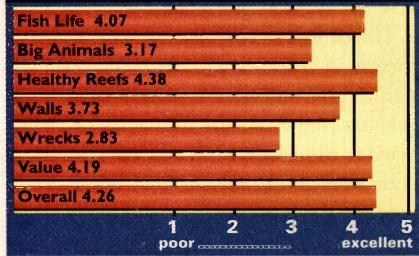
#### Reader Ratings

##### St. Kitts



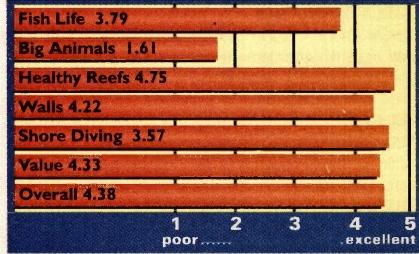
#### Reader Ratings

##### Saba



#### Reader Ratings

##### Dominica



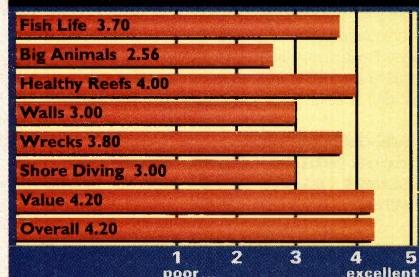
#### Reader Ratings

##### St. Lucia



#### Reader Ratings

##### Barbados



at private villa, 10 dives, 2 island tours, \$963.

###### NATURE ISLAND DIVE

(809) 449-8181 • Dives Soufriere and Scotts Head Marine Reserve, including Soufriere Pinnacle, La Bim, Champagne, Danglebens and Coral Gardens. Offers per-

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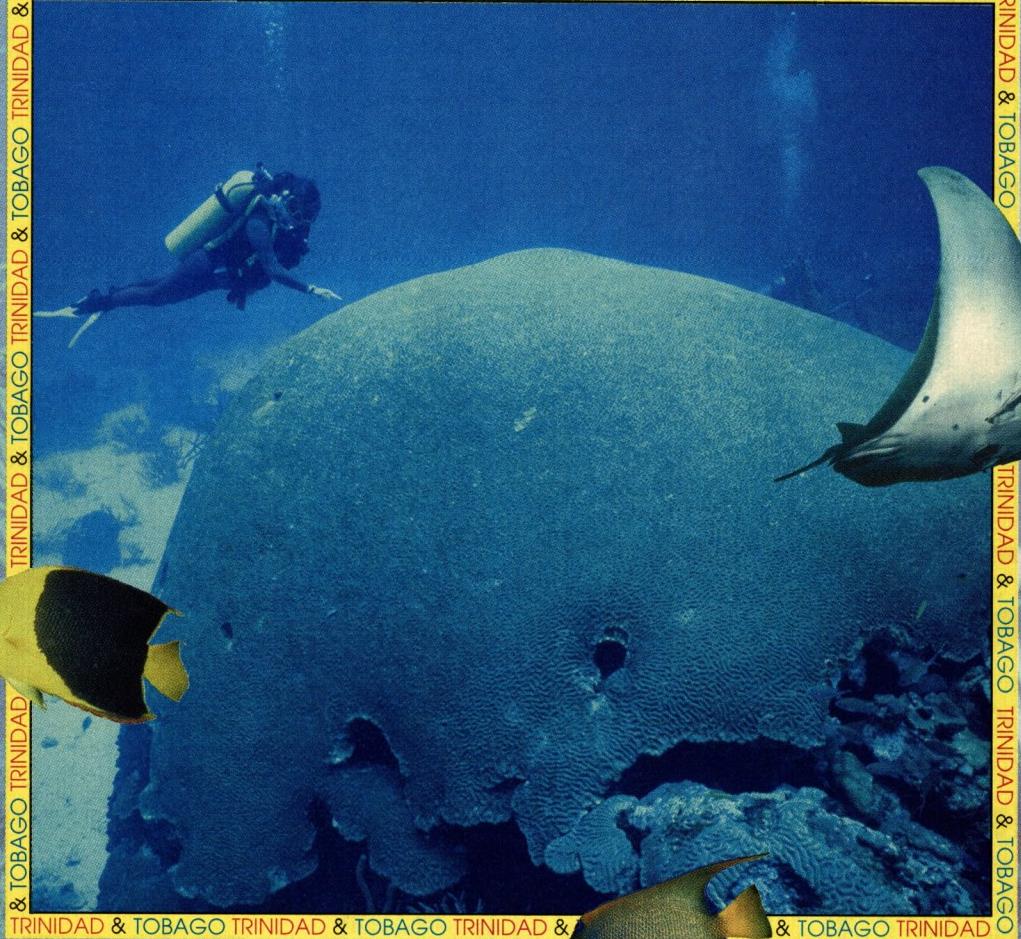


Photo: Douglas Strange

*Local lore has it that Tobago boasts the world's largest known brain coral. Why not come and ask the manta rays what they think?*

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## Eastern Caribbean

sonalized and professional diving services, small groups, and a variety of water and land sports. Booking office: WaterHouse Photo Tours. Best packages: 7 nights at seaside cottage, 10 dives, half-day biking, kayaking, airport transfers, accommodations, \$1,400 for 2 people. 7 nights at hotel, 10 dives, biking, half-day kayaking, transfers, breakfast, \$850 per person, dbl. occ.

### Grenada

#### DIVE GRENADA

(809) 444-1092/5875 • Dives the *Bianca C*, lee side of the island and day trips to remote islands in the north. Experienced staff, gear handling, personalized service. Booking office: Scuba Mart, (800) 843-8362. Best package: Accommodations, 2 dives, \$100 per day. Meal plans available.

#### GRAND ANSE AQUATICS

(809) 444-1046 • Dives the *Bianca C* and other reefs and wrecks around Grenada.

### Guadeloupe

#### LES HEURES SAINES

(011) 590-988663 • Dives the Cousteau Underwater Park and dive sites around the Pigeon Islands.

### Martinique

#### CLUB MED/BUCANEERS CREEK

(800) CLUB-MED • Dives Diamant Rock and Anse D'Arlet. Offers 2-day resort classes. Best package: 6 dives and equipment, \$65.

#### PLANETE BLEUE DIVING

(011) 596-660879 • Dives entire Caribbean coast of Martinique.

### Saba

#### SABA DEEP DIVE CENTER

(800) 222-0578, (011) 5994-63347 • Dives the Saba Marine Park, including pinnacles, walls and reefs. Caters to small groups, personalized service and three dives daily. Booking offices: Go Diving; Dive Saba Travel. Best package: 4 nights, 6 dives, \$435 to \$546.

### SEA SABA DIVE CENTER

(011) 599-462246 • e-mail: brqswks@sedona.net • Internet: <http://www.3routes.com/scuba/seasaba.html>

• Dives all moorings in Saba Marine Park. Two 38-foot covered dive boats with sundecks and shade, small groups (10-12 divers max.), an experienced all-instructor crew, and freedom for experienced divers. Booking offices: Caribbean Adventures, Go Diving. Best package: 7 nights, 5 days diving, breakfast and lunch, transfers, taxes, marine park fees, \$760 per person, dbl. occ.

### St. Barthelemy

#### ST. BARTH DIVING CENTER

(011) 590-277034 • Dives more than 15 sites, including Pain de Sucre, Petits Saints and Colombier. Offers uncrowded dive boats, personalized, professional services, guided tours and 4 departures daily. Best package: 10 dives, \$400 including gear.

### St. Eustatius

#### DIVE STATHIA

(011) 599-382435 • Dives both the Caribbean and the Atlantic sides of St. Eustatius. Offers experienced and professional diving services. Best packages: 3 nights, 4 dives, accommodations, transportation, breakfast, \$242, 7 nights, 12 dives, accommodations, transportation, breakfast, \$664.

#### GOLDEN ROCK DIVE CENTER

(800) 311-6658, (011) 5993-82964 • Dives various wrecks, walls and reefs. Offers new equipment, comfortable dive boats and personalized service. Best package: 7 days, 7 nights, accommodations, 15 boat dives, breakfast, \$749.

### St. Kitts & Nevis

#### DIVE NEVIS

(800) 75-NEVIS, (809) 469-9395 • e-mail: [beveland@caribsurf.com](mailto:beveland@caribsurf.com) • Dives St. Kitts and Nevis, including Nags Head, Monkey Shoals, Redonda Bank and the wrecks of the *Talata* and *River Taw*. Caters to small groups, personalized service, a multilingual staff and

flexible scheduling. Best package: 7 nights, 10-dive package, accommodations, \$580 per person, dbl. occ.

### ST. KITTS SCUBA

(800) 621-1270, (809) 465-8914 • e-mail: [birdrock@caribbeans.com](mailto:birdrock@caribbeans.com) • Dives St. Kitts and Nevis sites. Offers professional staff. Booking offices: Caradonna Caribbean Tours, Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel. Best packages: 1 week, no meals, \$599 per person, or 1 week, 2 meals a day, \$845 per person.

### St. Lucia

#### CLUB MED/ST. LUCIA

(800) CLUB-MED • Dives Petit Piton and Gros Piton. Offers 2-day resort classes and drift dives. Best package: 13 dives and equipment, \$125.

#### DIVE FAIR HELEN

(809) 451-7716, (809) 450-1640 • Dives Anse Cochon, Pinnacles, Gros Piton, Petit Piton and Anse Chastanet. Offers small groups, half-day tours, including 2 dives, and video/photos of your dive on request.

#### JALOUSIE PLANTATION RESORT & SPA

(800) 392-2007, (809) 459-7666 • Dives the Soufrière Marine Management Area. Offers a 4-to-1 diver-to-staff ratio. Caters to small groups (8 max.), and offers shore diving, resort courses and PADI certification. Dive packages vary: 6 boat dives, \$185; 8 boat dives, \$240; single dive, \$40.

#### ROSEMOND TRENCH DIVERS

(809) 453-7605, (809) 451-4761 • Dives St. Lucia. Friendly staff with local experience. Booking office: Marigot Beach Club, (809) 451-4974.

#### SCUBA ST. LUCIA

(800) 223-1108, (809) 459-7000 • Dives Pitons, Soufrière Marine Management Area, wreck of the *Lesleen M* and walls. Offers a multilingual staff, instruction in five languages and large dive boats. Best package: Group rate, \$1,199, includes all dives, meals, accommodations. Call for details.

### St. Maarten

#### OCEAN EXPLORERS DIVE CENTER

(011) 599-545252/44357 • Dives the reefs and

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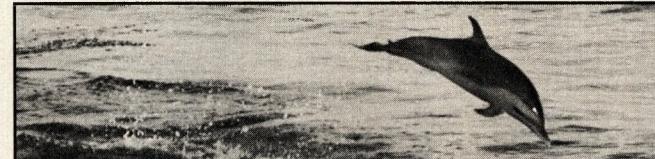
We have recently launched our new 30-foot custom built dive boat Flyin' High—come and check it out!

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tel: (809) 448-2188 · fax: (809) 448-6088



CIRCLE NO. 143 ON READER SERVICE CARD

wrecks south of St. Maarten (20 sites ranging from 20 feet to 110 feet), 30 years experience, small groups, personal attention. Located on the beach. Best package: 7 nights, studio apartment with kitchenette in private villa overlooking the ocean, 10 dives, \$700.

#### TRADE WINDS DIVE CENTER

(011) 599-575176 • Dives the reefs and wrecks along the southern and eastern coasts of St. Maarten. Offers close locations to cruise ship terminals, guided tour dives in small groups and a friendly dive staff. Best package: 10 dives, equipment provided, \$250.

#### St. Vincent & the Grenadines

##### DIVE BEQUIA

(809) 458-3504 • e-mail: [bobsax@caribsurf.com](mailto:bobsax@caribsurf.com) • Dives all sites around Bequia. Dive sites within 10-minute boat ride. Offers 2 custom-built dive boats, 16 passengers max., flexible dive schedules and personalized, professional diving services. Dive packages vary: diving equipment, taxes, service, accommodations at the Plantation House, \$799 per person, per week, or \$599 at apartments.

##### DIVE CANOUAN

(809) 458-8044 • Dives St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tobago Cays and Mayreau. Offers professional diving services. Best package: 6 nights, 10 dives, all meals, drinks not included, \$1,750.

##### DIVE ST. VINCENT

(809) 457-4928/4714 • Dives St. Vincent's southwest coast. Offers experienced and professional diving services. Booking office: Scuba Voyages. Best package: 7 nights/8 days, 10 dives, all equipment, airport transfers and hotel, \$599.

##### GRENADINES DIVE

(809) 458-8138 • Dives Palm Island, the Tobago Cays, including Horse Shoe Reef, and Mayreau, including Mayreau Garden. Offers a professional and friendly staff, yacht rendezvous, drift dives. Booking office: Scuba Voyages. Call for package rates and details.

##### PETIT BYHAUT

(809) 457-7008 • e-mail: [pettbyhaut@outahere.com](mailto:pettbyhaut@outahere.com) • internet: <http://www.outahere.com/pettbyhaut> • Dives St. Vincent's leeward coast. Offers a secluded nature resort, beach dives and short boat rides. Best package: 5-night dive package, all meals, \$920 per person, dbl. occ.

##### ST. VINCENT DIVE EXPERIENCE

(809) 457-5130 • e-mail: [vindive@mew.gov.vc](mailto:vindive@mew.gov.vc) • Dives St. Vincent and the northern Grenadines. Caters to small groups, offers personal service. Booking office: Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel.

##### SUNSPORTS

(800) 525-3833, (809) 458-3577 • Dives Boulders, Devils Table and L'anse Chemin. Offers professional diving services with experienced PADI staff. Booking offices: Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel, PADI Travel Network. Best package: 10-dive package, 2 meals daily, \$599.

#### Trinidad and Tobago

##### AQUAMARINE DIVE LTD.

(809) 639-4416 • Dives Tobago sites including Speyside, Flying Manta, Coral Gardens, Book Ends, Blackjack Hole and Cathedral. Offers professional diving services, in-house resort location. Booking office: Into The Blue, Maduro Dive Fanta-Seas.

##### DIVE TOBAGO

(809) 639-0202 • Dives the Caribbean and Atlantic sides of Tobago, anchor and drift dives. Experienced and personalized services.

##### MAN FRIDAY DIVING

(809) 660-4676 • Dives the north coast of Tobago, including Sisters Rock, St. Giles, Speyside and King's Bay. Offers small groups of 6, and personalized, uncrowded diving. Booking offices: Albatross Travel, (011) 4533-322488; Buddies UK, (011) 44717-369031; Pan Caribe Tours, (800) 525-6896. Call for package rates and details.

##### TOBAGO DIVE EXPERIENCE

(809) 639-7034 • Dives Speyside, on the northeast end and the south Caribbean coast of Tobago. Offers diving at both ends of the island. Booking office: Scuba Voyages. Best package: 7 nights, 10 dives, transfers, accommodations, \$699 per person, dbl. occ. (thru Dec. 14).

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# EUROPE

#### EUROPEAN DIVE OPERATORS

##### Cyprus

##### BUDDY DIVERS

LIMASSOL • (011) 3575-634000, EXT. 3254 • Dives various sites around Cyprus. 5-day plan, 2 dives daily, £C165.

##### Ireland

##### BALTIMORE DIVING & WATERSPORTS CENTRE

COUNTY CORK • (011) 353-28-20300 • Dives U-260 WWII submarine wreck and other wrecks, reefs and drop-offs. Offers local knowledge about dive sites, equipment sales, service and repair. Air and tri-mix courses and PADI, IANTD, TDI and CMAS certifications. Booking office: West Cork Travel, (011) 353-28-21211. Best package: 1 week accommodations, meals, 6 days hard boat diving, equipment, airport transfers, £350 (1st week), £150 (2nd week), based on 12 people.

##### LAVELLE'S VALENTIA DIVING CENTRE

COUNTY KERRY • (011) 353-6676124 • Dives the southwest coast of Ireland and local offshore islands, including the Skelligs. 25 years experience and knowledgeable about local conditions. Best package: 7 nights at bed and breakfast, 12 boat dives, tanks and weights, unlimited air, £285.

##### SCUBADIVE WEST

COUNTY GALWAY • (011) 353-9543922 • Dives Ireland's Atlantic coastline, including offshore islands. New dive center located on the shores of Ireland's only fjord; clear Atlantic waters year-round. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. "Drive 'N Dive" packages, including ferry service from the U.K., The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France; 10 boat dives, tanks and weights, £125.

##### SKELLIG AQUATICS LTD. DIVE CENTRE

COUNTY KERRY • (011) 353-66-75277 • Dives the Iveragh Peninsula and southwest Ireland, including the Skelligs, Bull Rock and Scarrif Islands. 28 years of experience, located in small village between mountains and the sea, emphasis on marine biology and offers other activities. Best package: 7 nights accommodations, 5 days of 2-tank dives, tanks and weights, £185.

##### Malta

##### AQUAVENTURE LTD.

(011) 356-52214 • e-mail: [aquavent@malatnet.omnes.net](mailto:aquavent@malatnet.omnes.net) • Dives Malta, Gozo and Comino. Caters to advanced and beginner divers, offers water-sports, including windsurfing and sailing certification courses. Booking offices: Sport Resor, (011) 46-31172370; Startours, (011) 356-322294. Best package: 7 nights, 12 dives, £M180.

##### Spain

##### CLUB AMIGOS DEL MAR

ALICANTE • (011) 3496-6460250 • Dives sites in Javea, between Cabo de San Antonio underwater park and Cabo de la Nao. 22 years experience. Call in advance for details.

##### ESCUBA PALMA

MALLORCA • (011) 3471-694968 • Dives Mallorca's southwest coast, including Toro, Sech, Malgrats and Dragonera Islands. Caters to both beginner and advanced divers. Dive packages vary. Call for details.

##### TOP DIVING PUERTO ESCALA

CANARY ISLANDS • (011) 3428-560609 • Dives more than 30 sites on Gran Canaria Island. Offers boat dives twice daily, multilingual dive staff and nitrox. Has only recompression chamber on the island. Package: 10 dives, full equipment, accommodations, price depends on choice of hotel.

# FIJI

If you want to dive in the waters of Fiji's Kadavu Islands, be prepared to drink some kava. To gain access to these reefs, it's still customary to share with a local chief a bowl of the bitter grog made from the root of the yaqona tree. Some

kava drinkers experience a narcotic high and most report numbness of the lips, but it's a small price to pay to dive some of the most beautiful reefs in the South Pacific.

Fiji is often called the soft coral capital of the world, thanks to its signature species, the translucent *Dendronephtha klunzingeri*. The island chain's barrier reefs and coral atolls also support 400 other species of hard and soft corals, gobs of invertebrate life and some of the richest and most photogenic fish life in the world, including the tomato clownfish, the lemon-peel angelfish and the latticed butterflyfish.

##### ► WEATHER:

Favorable dive conditions can be expected from March to December, with the calmest seas in April and May. January and February are iffy, offering the warmest temperatures, but also the greatest amount of rainfall.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** From a low of 75F in the coolest months (June to October) to a high of 84F in January and February.

► **VISIBILITY:** Expect triple-digit vis during the coolest months (June to October). Plankton blooms and rainfall can lower visibility from November to February.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Fed by the current flowing through Somo Somo Strait, the blanket of white soft corals that give the Great White Wall its name also make it one of the most spectacular dive sites in the world. Giant Maori wrasse prowl the deep coral chasms that cut through North Astrolabe Reef. Expect eight-foot sea fans and gray reef sharks in Frigate Passage, on the southwest corner of Beqa's barrier reef.

#### FIJI DIVE OPERATORS

##### AQUA TREK OCEAN SPORTS ADVENTURES LTD.

(011) 679-702413 • Dives Mamanuca Islands and Taveuni. Visits more than 30 dive sites, including shark feeds.

##### Reader Ratings

##### Fiji



**BEQA DIVERS FIJI**

(011) 679-361088 • Dives Beqa Lagoon, Side Streets, Soft Coral Grotto, Caesar's Rocks, Coral Gardens, various tunnels and wrecks. Offers custom-designed dive boats with easy water entry and exit, and professional diving services. Booking offices: Adventure Express; Scuba Dreams, (800) 346-6116; Scuba Hire Ltd., (011) 679-361047; WaterWays Travel. Best package: 4 nights budget accommodations (diver share), 3 days diving, 6 dives, picnic lunch, government taxes included, \$300.

**CASTAWAY ISLAND DIVERS**

(011) 679-661233 • Dives Mamanuca Islands and surrounding reefs, walls and pinnacles. PADI award-winning resort. Emphasizes professionalism and safety. Booking office: Integrated Travel Resources, (310) 568-0009.

**CRYSTAL DIVERS**

(011) 679-880446 • Dives Northern Lau group and the Exploring Isles. Offers new, unexplored diving sites. Booking offices: Sea Hunt Escapes, (800) 554-2SEA; Tropical Adventures Travel. Best packages: 4 nights, 3 days diving, \$845 per person. 7 nights, 6 days diving, \$1,495 per person.

**DIVE CONNECTIONS FIJI LTD.**

(011) 679-450541 • Dives Beqa Lagoon and Frigate Passage. Offers reasonable prices, safe and professional services. Booking offices: Dive Discovery, Inter-Ocean Tours. Best package: 2 days diving, 4 tanks, all gear, 1 night accommodation, \$230 per person.

**DIVE KADAVU**

(011) 679-311780 • Dives Namalata and Astrolabe Reefs. Moorings on all sites, 3 dives daily and night diving. Booking offices: Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 5 nights accommodations (twin share), all meals, 10 dives, airport transfers, \$862 per person.

**DIVE KONIKI/KONIKI RESORT**

(011) 679-850352 • Dives sites within a 5- to 10-minute boat ride. Booking offices: Travel Arrangements, (800) 392-8213; Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 nights accommodations (twin share), 6 days of 2-tank dives, meals, \$800.

**DIVE SONAISALI**

(011) 679-720411 • Dives sites around the Mamanuca Islands. Offers a highly personalized diving experience. 5-day, 10-tank dive package, \$320.

**DIVE TAVEUNI**

(011) 679-880441 • Dives Rainbow Reef, Somo Somo Straits, the Great White Wall and more than 25 other sites. Offers professional diving services and caters to both novice and advanced divers. Booking offices: Adventure Express, Inter-Ocean, Island Dreams, Landfall Productions Dive & Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Sportours, Tropical Adventures Travel.

**ECO DIVERS**

(011) 679-850122 • Dives Savusavu Bay and outer reefs. Fast dive boats and multiple daily dives, up to 5 per day. Best package: 7 nights, 5 days of 2-tank diving, \$582 per person, dbl./twin share.

**FIJI FORBES LAUCALA ISLAND**

(800) FORBES-5, (011) 679-880077 • Dives Northern Group, Purple Wall, Red Wall, Rainbow's End and Still Waters. No schedules, dive when you want. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 8 days/7 nights, all-inclusive, \$2,100 per person.

**KAIMBU ISLAND**

(800) 473-0332, (011) 679-880333 • Dives the 14-mile reef surrounding the Kaimbu and Yacata Islands in the Lau Group. Offers remote diving, 6 divers max. and a variety of dives, and caters to novices through advanced. Best package: \$995 plus 10 percent tax, per couple, per night, including accommodations, meals, beverages, all activities, transfers.

**L'AVENTURE JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU**

VANUA LEVU • (800) 246-3454, (011) 679-850-188 • e-mail: fiji4fun@is.com.fj • Dives Savusavu Bay, Somosomo Strait. Offers PADI certifications, resort courses, referrals, new dive boat, E-6 processing. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Best package: 5 nights, 2-tank dive daily, \$2,150 for 2 people.

**MALAWAI, KADAVU**

(011) 679-520102 • Dives offshore Malawai, Kadavu Island, Rooper Reef and surrounding bommies. Offers private, customized dive tours with small groups. Booking office: Island Dreams, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages may vary. 7 nights accommodations, 6 days of 2-tank diving, 2 night dives, full meal plan, airport transfers, \$1,412 per person, dbl. occ.

**MARLIN BAY RESORT**

(011) 679-304042 • Dives the Fiji Islands and Beqa Lagoon. Offers more than 100 dive sites within 20 minutes of the resort. Booking office: Marlin Bay Tours, (800) 542-3454. Best package: 7-night, 6-day diving package, \$3,199 per couple.

**MATAGI ISLAND RESORT**

(800) 362-8244, (714) 379-8860 • e-mail: matagi@netilus.com • Dives Matagi Island area. Offers a private, family-owned island with 2 dive boats. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Poseidon Venture Tours, Tropical Adventures Travel.

**MOODY'S NAMENA**

(011) 679-813764 • Dives the Namena barrier reef, Grand Canyon, the Pillars, Cascades, Four Sisters and Manta Mount. Only land-based resort within minutes of the Namena barrier reef. Booking offices: Adventure Express; Aqua Fauna Safaris, (800) 348-3436; Dive Discovery; Tropical Adventures Travel; Tropical Inspirations, (800) 976-5732; WaterWays Travel. Best package: Twin share diver package, accommodations, meals, activities, \$234 per person.

**NAMALE RESORT**

(011) 679-850435 • Dives the Savusavu barrier reef. Offers high-quality services. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel.

**NUKUBALAVU ADVENTURE RESORT AND DIVE CENTRE**

(011) 679-314554 • e-mail: nukubalavu@is.com.fj • Dives the Great Astrolabe Reef. Offers eco-tour trekking. Booking offices: Adventure Express; Astral Travel, (800) 707-3454; Great Destinations. 7-night packages: deluxe bire, 10 dives, meals, transfers, \$FJ499 per person; standard bire, 10 dives, meals, transfers, \$FJ795 per person.

**OCEAN PACIFIC CLUB OF FIJI**

(011) 679-304864 • Dives Beqa Lagoon and Suva reef. Dive boats do not anchor on the reef. Best package: 2-tank dive and lunch, \$95 per person.

**QAMEA BEACH CLUB**

(800) 392-8213, (011) 679-880220 • Dives sites between Taveuni and Qamea in northeastern Fiji. Easily accessible dive sites. Booking offices: Adventure Express; Sea Fiji Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Packages vary. Call for rates.

**RAINBOW REEF DIVERS**

(011) 679-880286 • Dives Somo Somo Straits. Close to dive sites, emphasis on service. Booking office: Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 nights, 3 meals daily, 10 dives, \$899 per person sgl. occ., \$799 per person, dbl. occ.

**SHERATON VOMO ISLAND RESORT**

(011) 679-668122 • Dives outside the Vomo Island waters. Offers private diving lessons to small groups or individuals. Booking office: Dive Connections, (011) 679-450541.

**SUBSURFACE FIJI**

(011) 679-666738 • Dives Mamanuca Island group, southern Yasawa Islands, Beachcomber Island Marine Park and various wrecks. Offers nitrox and personalized services. Booking office: Unirep.

**VATULELE ISLAND RESORT**

(011) 679-520300 • e-mail: vatulele@itr-aps.com • internet: http://www.vatulele.com • Dives Vatulele Island, including lagoon and surrounding reefs. 5-star dedicated dive resort with resident instructors. Best packages: Accommodations, \$FJ1,276 per couple per day. Diving, \$FJ132 per person for 2-tank dive.

**WAIDROKA BAY RESORT**

(011) 679-944944 • Dives the Pond, Fishbowl and Frigate Passage. A small resort located in a rain forest and just minutes from the beach. Booking office: Travel Host Agency, (800) 768-7223. Best package: 6 days, 10 dives, meals, accommodations, \$500 per person, dbl. occ.

**YASAWA ISLAND LODGE**

(011) 679-663364 • Dives the 12-mile-long coast of Yasawa Island. Offers many unexplored dive sites. Diving package includes accommodations, meals and tariffs. Call for details.

**LIVE-ABOARDS**

**BEQA PRINCESS, MATAGI PRINCESS II, NAI'A CRUISES, SERE-NI-WAI**

# FLORIDA

Although retirees have laid claim to huge portions of the Sunshine State, its waters still belong to divers. From the crystal-clear freshwater of the state's inland springs to the fish-filled waters that cover the only coral reef tract in the continental United States, divers find plenty to call their own.

Off Panama City and Pensacola in the state's Panhandle, you'll find the results of one of the most active artificial reef programs in the country. In north-central Florida, the springs offer boat-free diving year-round. The Gold Coast in the southeast is home to limestone ledges and world-class wrecks. And the Keys continue to reign as the most accessible, most visited dive destination in the world.

**Reader Ratings  
Florida Keys****Reader Ratings  
Southeast Florida**

► **WEATHER:** Mild year-round in the south, more temperate in the north. Summers are hot and humid across the state.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Upper 70Fs to low 80Fs in summer; winter temps vary by location, from lower 70Fs in the Keys to mid-50Fs in the north. Springs are a constant 72F year-round.

► **VISIBILITY:** Springs can be 200 feet-plus; ocean waters vary by season and location. Vis in the Keys averages 50 to 80 feet, but can reach triple digits on calm days.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Manatees and divers converge on Crystal River for winter meetings every year. Baitfish and barracudas hang out on Broward County's wreck of the 198-foot freighter *Mercedes I*. The largest schools of fish in the Keys gather at Molasses Reef, possibly the most popular dive site in the world.



## FLORIDA DIVE OPERATORS

### Florida Keys

#### A KEY WEST REEF TRIP/REEF CHIEF

**KEY WEST** • (305) 292-1345 • Dives Key West reefs. Sail to the reef on a 65-foot sailing schooner. Small groups, uncrowded dive sites, snorkeling. Available for private charters. Best package: 2 people, 2 nights, 1 dive, \$275.

#### ADMIRAL DIVE CENTER

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 346-3483, (305) 451-1114 • Dives Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary. Offers small groups and rental dive boats. Best package: Accommodations in cottage by the sea, diving, \$370 per week, per person, triple occ.

#### AMERICAN DIVING HEADQUARTERS

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 634-8464, (305) 451-0037 • e-mail: [amdiving@aol.com](mailto:amdiving@aol.com) • Dives Pennekamp State Park and Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary. Oldest dive store on Key Largo, guarantees dive trips. Best package: Buy 4 dives, including tanks and weights, for \$45 each, and get a 5th dive for free.

#### AMY SLATE'S AMORAY DIVE RESORT

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 426-6729, (305) 451-3595 • Dives Upper Keys, Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, Pennekamp State Park, Conch Wall and various wrecks. Offers a family-run resort with custom 45-foot dive cata-

maran and waterfront rooms and villas. Underwater weddings. Best package: 5 nights/4 days, 5 reef trips to 2 locations, accommodations, tanks and weights, \$331.10 (April 24-Sept. 5); \$294.65 (Sept. 6-Dec. 20).

#### BUD N' MARY'S DIVE CENTER

**ISLAMORADA** • (800) 344-7352, (305) 664-2211 • Dives Alligator, Crocker and Davis Reefs and more. Offers professional and friendly dive services. Dive packages vary, starting from \$75 per person, dbl. occ.

#### CARIBBEAN WATERSPORTS DIVE CENTER

**ISLAMORADA** • (800) 327-2888, (305) 664-9547 • Dives offshore Islamorada, including Alligator Reef, Eagle Wreck, and Crocker and Davis Reefs. Brand new dive shop, new 42-foot catamaran, new 32-foot rigid inflatable, new gear. Offers specialty dives. Located at Cheeca Lodge. Best package: 3 days of diving, includes tanks and weights, \$153; additional trips \$51.

#### C.J.'S DIVE CENTER

**MARATHON** • (800) 210-9433, (305) 289-9433 • Dives Sombrero Reef, Delta Shoals, Hermans Hole, Samanthas, The Gap, Barge wreck, Sombrero Gardens, The Boom Ledge. Full-service dive shop, instruction, group rates available, full rentals. Best package: Queen room, 2-tank dive including tanks and weights, from \$59.95 per person, dbl. occ.

#### CAPTAIN SLATE'S ATLANTIS DIVE CENTER

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 331-3483, (305) 451-3020 • Dives Pennekamp State Park, Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, Elbow Reef, Molasses Reef, Carysfort Reef, Christ of the Abyss and Duane. Offers professional and friendly diving services. Booking office: WaterHouse Photo Tours. Dive packages vary.

#### CAPTAIN'S CORNER

**KEY WEST** • (305) 296-8865/8918 • Dives wrecks and reefs west of Key West. PADI 5-star facility offering PADI courses with multilingual instructors. Dive boat *Sea Eagle* was featured in the James Bond film, *License To Kill*. Best packages: 2 nights/3 days, 1 day of diving with 2 tanks, tanks and weights included, \$99 per person; 6 nights/7 days with 5 dive days, tanks and weights included, \$385 per person (taxes and gratuities not included in packages).

## Florida

#### CONCH REPUBLIC DIVERS

**TAVERNIER** • (800) 274-DIVE, (305) 852-1655 • e-mail: [ckandtom@fla.net](mailto:ckandtom@fla.net) • Dives the southern edge of Pennekamp State Park to Alligator Reef, including reef, wreck and drift dives. Small shop with a big boat and an experienced crew, 20 years of local experience offering personalized trips, wide variety of sites. Best package: 3 nights in efficiency cottages on Florida Bay, three 2-tank dives, tanks and weights included, \$220 per person, dbl. occ., plus tax.

#### THE DIVING SITE

**MARATHON** • (800) 634-3935, (305) 289-1021 • Close to dive sites, large boat, experienced crew, 21 years in business. Dives 17-mile stretch of reef between Duck Key and Sombrero Reef. Best package: \$111 for 2 people includes room and 2-tank dive.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF KEY LARGO

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 352-3483, (305) 453-9588 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives Pennekamp State Park and surrounding areas—Molasses Reef, Christ of the Abyss, French Reef and wrecks, including the *Bibb* and the *Duane*. Wide variety of departure areas. 5-day, 4-night packages, from \$274.

#### FLORIDA KEYS DIVE CENTER

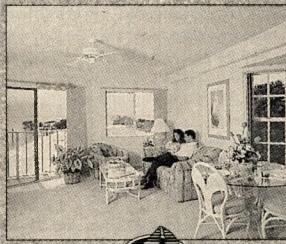
**TAVERNIER** • (800) 433-8946, (305) 852-4599 • e-mail: [scuba@floridakeysdivectr.com](mailto:scuba@floridakeysdivectr.com) • internet: <http://www.floridakeysdivectr.com/scuba> • Dives Pennekamp State Park, *Duane*, *Bibb* and *Eagle*, Conch Wall, Conch Reef, Davis Reef, Crocker Valley, Pickles Reef. PADI 5-star IDC facility. Family-oriented operation. Best packages: From Sept. 6-Dec. 20: 2 days/3 nights, 4 dives, \$234 per person, dbl. occ.; 4 days/5 nights, 8 dives, \$420 per person, dbl. occ. Packages include continental breakfast.

#### FLORIDAZE DIVE CENTER

**TAVERNIER** • (800) 437-DIVE, (305) 852-1432 • internet: <http://Florida-keys.fl.us/floridaz.htm> • Dives shallow reefs, *Eagle*, Conch Wall and the *Aquarius* Underwater Habitat. Small groups (6 divers max.), PADI 5-star training facility, drift and night diving, and lobster dives in season. Best package: includes tanks and weights, day

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MAY • 75

dives to 2 locations or a night dive to 1 location, efficiency accommodations, \$72.50 per person, dbl. occ.

#### FUN YET CHARTERS

**LITTLE TORCH KEY** • (800) 413-2048, (305) 872-3407 • Dives Lower Key, including Looe Key and the Content Keys. All trips are custom charters, 6 passengers max. Fishing and diving combinations are available. Best package: Charters are \$250, half-day; \$350, full day.

#### HALL'S DIVING CENTER & NAUI CAREER INSTITUTE

**MARATHON** • (800) 331-4255, (305) 743-5929 • Dives Sombrero Reef, Delta Shoals, Looe Key, Thunderbolt wreck, Barge wreck. Dives more than 40 miles of reef. Located on resort property. Best package: \$67 per person includes accommodations and diving. 3-, 5- and 7-night packages available.

#### HMS MINNOW CHARTERS, INC.

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 366-9301, (305) 451-7834 • e-mail: [jburcham@msn.com](mailto:jburcham@msn.com) • internet: <http://www.3routes.com/scuba/na/usa/fl/08/0320.html> • Dives John Pennekamp State Park, the Bibb and Duane. Uncrowded, personalized dive and snorkel trips, 6 passengers max. Single trip price, \$50; 3 or more trips, \$45 each; tanks and weights included. Tax not included in price.

#### IT'S A DIVE WATERSPORTS

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 809-9881, (305) 453-9881 • e-mail: [itsadive@aol.com](mailto:itsadive@aol.com) • Dives Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Pennekamp State Park, Molasses Reef and north to The Elbow. Other watersports, fresh fruit, sodas and ice water free on all dives, gear handling and storage. Located at Marriott Key Largo Bay Beach Resort. Best package: 2-tank daily dive trip, accommodations and free casino passes, \$87.50 per person, per night, dbl. occ.

#### JULES' UNDERSEA LODGE

**KEY LARGO** • (305) 451-8353 • internet: <http://www.jul.com> • The hotel is located in a natural mangrove lagoon at a depth of 30 feet. The world's only underwater hotel. Guests scuba dive to their rooms and can earn an underwater habitat/aquonaut specialty. Luxury Aquanaut package, \$295 per person, per night. Other packages begin at \$195 per person, per night. Discounted rates for groups of 4 to 6 divers.

#### KELLY'S ON THE BAY/AQUA-NUT DIVERS

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 226-0415, (305) 451-1622 • e-mail: [kellys@florida-keys.fl.us](mailto:kellys@florida-keys.fl.us) • internet: <http://florida-keys.fl.us> • Dives the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Carysfort Reef, Elbow Reef, French Reef, Molasses Reef, Pickles Reef, Conch Reef, Benwood, USCG Duane and the Aquarius Habitat. Emphasis on customer service, gear handling and personal service. Booking office: Ana Maria Avila Island Travel, (305) 361-9111. Best package:

3 nights, two 5-trip dive packages, \$265 per person, dbl. occ.

#### KEY WEST DIVER

**KEY WEST** • (800) 87 DIVER, (305) 294-7177 • e-mail: [76265.65@compuserve.com](mailto:76265.65@compuserve.com) • Dives various wrecks, including Cayman Salvager, Joe's Tug and All Alone. Dive computers on all wreck dives, 12 divers max., focus on safety. 3-day diving package: 6 dives including tanks and weights, 2 nights lodging, \$219 per person, dbl. occ.

#### KEY WEST PRO DIVE SHOP

**KEY WEST** • (800) 426-0707, (305) 296-3823 • Dives both shallow and deep sites at 100-plus reef locations and numerous wrecks near Key West. 24 years experience. Offers a wide variety of equipment, complete rental and repair facilities, certified pure air, charters and all levels of dive training. Dive packages vary, with custom packages available.

#### LADY CYANA DIVERS, INC.

**ISLAMORADA** • (800) 221-8717, (305) 664-8717 • e-mail: [ladycyana@aol.com](mailto:ladycyana@aol.com) • Dives the Florida Keys, from Molasses Reef south to Alligator Reef (20 miles), wreck and reef diving every day. Offers complete in-house photo/video facility, PADI 5-star facility, deep reef and wreck diving, shallow diving for beginners, friendly crews, custom dive boats, free weekend barbecues, boats and store at same location, and snorkeling. Best package: Accommodations, dive trip to 2 locations, tanks, air, weights, \$76 per person, per day.

#### LOOE KEY DIVE CENTER

**RAMROD KEY** • (800) 942-5397, (305) 872-2215 • e-mail: [looekeydiv@aol.com](mailto:looekeydiv@aol.com) • Dives Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary. Offers a dive shop, motel, pool and tiki bar. Best package: 2-tank dive, tanks and weights, accommodations, tax and welcome rum punch, \$73.67 per person, dbl. occ.

#### LOOKER DIVING CENTER

**KEY WEST** • (800) 245-2249, (305) 294-2249 • e-mail: [looker@hp.com](mailto:looker@hp.com) • internet: <http://www.scuba-world.com/looker> • Dives the Florida Keys, Key West, Marquesas and Tortugas. Offers small groups, custom services, remote sites. Best package: Accommodations, dives, tanks and weights, \$89 per night, per person, dbl. occ.

#### LOOKOUT LODGE

**ISLAMORADA** • (800) 870-1772, (305) 852-9915 • Between Alligator and Conch Reefs. Dive boat on premises, 12 passengers max. Best package: 2-tank dive, includes tanks and weights, \$40 (weekdays), \$45 (weekends).

#### MARATHON DIVERS

**MARATHON** • (800) 724-5798, (305) 289-1141 • Dives Yellow Rocks, Sharks Ledge, Hermans Hole, Lobster ledge. 16 years same owner. Booking office: Marathon Chamber of Commerce, (305) 743-5417.

#### OCEAN DIVERS INC.

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 451-1113, (305) 451-1113 • Dives Florida Keys and Key Largo National Marine Sanctuaries. Personal service, dive shop adjacent to hotel, gear handling.

#### OCEAN QUEST DIVE CENTER

**ISLAMORADA** • (800) 356-8798, (305) 852-8770 • e-mail: [oqdc33036@aol.com](mailto:oqdc33036@aol.com) • internet: <http://floridakeys.fl.us> • Dives the Eagle, Davis and Conch Reefs, NOAA Habitat. Caters to small groups, experienced divers, located on 50-acre resort. Best package: \$76.50 per person, per day includes hotel, 2-tank dive, tanks and weights.

#### OUTCAST CHARTERS & FLORIDA KEYS HOUSE

**SUMMERLAND KEY** • (305) 872-4680 • Dives Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary. Offers dockside lodging. Custom-tailored dive or snorkel trips. Best package: 3 days/2 nights at Florida Keys House, continental breakfast, 4 boat dives, optional night dive, tanks and weights, \$179 per person, quad, occ.; \$265 per person, dbl. occ.

#### PARADISE DIVERS

**BIG PINE KEY** • (305) 872-1114 • Dives the Lower Keys, from Marathon to Key West. Offers deep air through tech deep air courses, nitrox instruction, wreck training courses, scooter diving. Training packages from \$99.95. Call for course list.

#### PLEASURE DIVERS

**KEY LARGO** • (305) 453-9099 • Dives Pennekamp Park, Marine Sanctuary, Coast Guard cutters Duane and Bibb, offers live-aboard trips to Bahamas. Large 40-foot boat, 6 passengers max., family-owned and operated.

#### QUIESCENCE DIVING SERVICES INC.

**KEY LARGO** • (305) 451-2440 • Dives Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary and Pennekamp State Park. 19 years experience. Offers full-service diving facilities, 6-passenger charter operation, all levels of scuba instruction courses available, taught on an individual basis. Dive packages vary.

#### THE REEF SHOP

**ISLAMORADA** • (800) 741-4385, (305) 664-4385 • Dives Arno's Reef. Small groups, spearfishing.

#### SEA DWELLERS DIVE CENTER

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 451-3640, (305) 451-3641 • Dives Key Largo and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Offers custom diving vessel, professional staff and small groups. Best package: Accommodations, 2 location dives with tanks and weights, from \$67.50 per person, dbl. occ.

#### SHARKY'S DIVE CENTER

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 935-DIVE, (305) 453-3711 • e-mail: [MrKeyLargo@aol.com](mailto:MrKeyLargo@aol.com) • Dives Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, Key Largo to Islamorada. Offers high-speed catamaran boats for all activities. Dive packages available with Holiday Inn, Port Largo Resort, Marriott, Sheraton and others. Call for details.

#### SILENT WORLD DIVE CENTER

**KEY LARGO** • (800) 966-3483, (305) 451-3252 • e-mail: [76065.3171@compuserve.com](mailto:76065.3171@compuserve.com) • internet: <http://www.pennekamp.com/sw/> • Dives Pennekamp State Park and Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary. Offers less crowded boats. Best package: 5 days/4 nights, five 2-tank boat trips, tanks and weights, accommodations. Call for price.

#### SOUTHPOINT DIVERS

**KEY WEST** • (800) 824-6811, (800) 891-DIVE, (305) 292-9778 • e-mail: [southpoint@aol.com](mailto:southpoint@aol.com) • Dives Joe's Tug, Cayman Salvager, Western Dry Rocks, Eastern Dry Rocks, Ball and Chain, Eye of the Needle, and other reef sites. Offers jet dive boats and crew members are all dive instructors. This is a PADI 5-star IDC facility. Booking office: Scuba One Tours, (800) 352-8081. Best package: 3 nights, 2 days diving, tanks and weights, accommodations, \$181.25 per person, dbl. occ. (summer); \$232.25 (winter).

#### STEPHEN FRINK PHOTOGRAPHIC INC.

**KEY LARGO** • (305) 451-3737 • Dives Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary and wrecks, including the Bibb and Duane, and offers international photo tours. Offers underwater photo specialty, E-6 processing, camera and video rentals and Cibachrome custom enlargements. Booking office: WaterHouse Photo Tours.

#### SUBTROPIC KEY WEST

**KEY WEST** • (800) 759-DIVE, (305) 296-9914 • Dives reefs and wrecks around Key West. Retail sales, resort, classroom instruction, rentals, marina, all in one location.

#### TAVERNIER DIVE CENTER

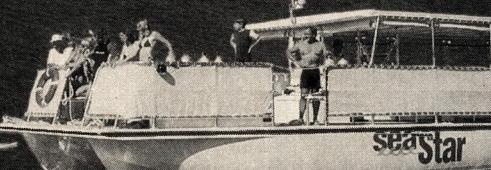
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#### TILDEN'S DIVE SHOP

**MARATHON** • (800) 223-4563, (305) 743-5422 • Dives Sombrero Reef, Delta Shoals, Thunderbolt wreck, Coffins Patch. Voted favorite dive shop in Marathon last 6 years by local newspaper and radio. Instruction, rentals. Best package: \$59.95 per person, dbl. occ. includes 2-tank dive, tanks and weights, accommodations.

#### TRIDENT DIVERS

**KEY LARGO** • (305) 451-6431 • Dives Molasses, French Reefs, Duane and Bibb, Davis Reef, Conch Reef, NOAA Habitat. Caters to small groups, 6 passengers max., fast boat, maximum time in water. Best package: 2-tank dive, \$55 per person, includes tanks and weights.

#### UNDERSEAS INC.

**BIG PINE KEY** • (800) 446-5663, (305) 872-2700 • Dives Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary. PADI 5-star facility. Offers 3-day certification course, 1-day resort course and morning and afternoon dive and snorkel trips. 27 years experience in the Keys, personal service, nitrox courses and fills. Best package: \$66 per person, per day includes lodging, dive trip, including tanks and weights, continental breakfast.

#### UPPER KEYS DIVE AND SPORTS CENTER

**TAVERNIER** • (800) 537-3253, (305) 853-0526 • Dives Conch, Crocker, Davis Reefs, Duane and Eagle. Motel and dive operation in one location. Best package: \$73.50 per person includes room, 2 tank dive, tanks and weights.

#### Florida Springs

##### AMERICAN PRO DIVING CENTER

**CRYSTAL RIVER** • (800) 291-DIVE, (352) 563-0041 • Dives freshwater springs of north-central Florida. PADI 5-star facility. Offers guided tours, full-service dive center, manatee snorkel and dive tours November through April. One-and-a-half-day diving/snorkel packages, from \$77.50.

#### BLUE GROTTO DIVE RESORT

**WILLISTON** • (352) 528-5770 • Located at Blue Grotto Springs. 200-foot visibility, 72F water temps, 100-foot depth, on-site rentals and air. Best package: \$24 per diver, per day.

#### BRANFORD DIVE CENTER

**BRANFORD** • (904) 935-1141 • Dives north Florida's springs. Offers a central location for access to area springs. Dive packages vary, starting from \$29.50 per person, per night.

#### GINNIE SPRINGS RESORT

**HIGH SPRINGS** • (800) 874-8571, (904) 454-2202 • Dives Ginnie Springs. Offers diving instruction plus 300-foot visibility. Booking office: Planet Travel, (904) 472-6644. Best package: 2 days diving, 2 nights of camping, 6 air fills, and a half-day canoe rental, \$69.95.

#### HAL WATTS' FORTY FATHOM GROTTO

**OCALA** • (352) 368-7974 • Internet: <http://www.travelbase.com/activities/scuba> • Dives Hal Watts' Forty Fathom Grotto. 240-foot-deep site with thousands of fossil sand dollars and sea biscuits and various wrecks. Extended-range instruction, including rebreathers, dry suits and full face masks. Guided tours. Dive packages vary.

#### JIM HOLLIS' RIVER RENDEZVOUS

**MAYO** • (800) 533-5276, (904) 294-2510 • Dives Troy Springs, Peacock Springs, Little River, Sante Fe River, Cow Springs and Suwannee River. Offers complete resort facilities with camping, motel rooms, hot tubs, sauna, steam room, restaurant and lounge, and charters daily trips to Troy Springs.

#### PARADISE SPRINGS

**OCALA** • (352) 368-5746 • Dives Paradise Springs. Uncrowded dive site, 74F year-round temperature, 200-foot visibility. Best package: \$24 per diver, per day.

#### PLANTATION INN, GOLF RESORT & MARINA

**CRYSTAL RIVER** • (800) 632-6262, (904) 795-4211 • Dives Crystal River. 20 years experience. Located 400 yards from main dive site. Offers complete equipment rental, instruction and guide services.

#### STEAMBOAT DIVE INN

**BRANFORD** • (904) 935-2283 • Dives Troy Spring, Peacock Springs, Little River Springs and Ginnie Springs. Offers on-site motel, and cavern, cave and nitrox instruction. Best package: 5 nights, 2 dives at Troy Spring, \$199.95.

#### Southeast Florida

##### ADVENTURE SCUBA

**JUPITER-TEQUESTA** • (800) 221-5420, (407) 746-

**1555** • Dives more than 25 locations, including Jupiter reefs. Full-service dive shop. Best package: 2-tank dive, tanks and weights, 1 night accommodation, \$65 per person, dbl. occ.

#### ANCHOR SCUBA

**FORT LAUDERDALE** • (305) 763-DIVE • Dives Boca to Hollywood. Offers dive guides at no extra cost and technical diving courses.

#### THE AQUA SHOP

**NORTH PALM BEACH** • (800) 331-3772, (407) 848-9042 • Dives various sites in the Palm Beach area. Offers personalized and professional diving services. Boat docked at shop.

#### BISCAYNE NATIONAL UNDERWATER PARK

**HOMESTEAD** • (305) 230-1100 • Dives Biscayne National Park. Only operator permitted to dive the park. Best package: 2 days diving, 1 night lodging, tanks and weights, \$109.95 per person, dbl. occ.; \$144.95 per person, sgl. occ.

#### CORAL ISLAND CHARTERS

**JUPITER** • (800) 972-3483, (407) 745-9286 • e-mail: [102640.514@compuserve.com](mailto:102640.514@compuserve.com) • Dives Palm Beach and Key Largo. "Tuxedo-level" service, knowledgeable staff, amenities on boat. 2 locations. Best package: 4 days, 3 nights, 2 days of diving, \$205 per person, dbl. occ.

#### DIVERS UNLIMITED

**HOLLYWOOD** • (954) 981-0156 • e-mail: [dvrsunltd@aol.com](mailto:dvrsunltd@aol.com) • Dives wrecks and reefs of Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood. PADI #1 training facility award recipient. Freshwater shower on boat. Best package: 2-tank dive trip, \$35.

#### THE DIVING LOCKER

**NORTH MIAMI BEACH** • (305) 947-6025, (305) 956-9299 • Dives Tenneco Towers, C1, tanks, Deep Freeze, and all the wrecks and reefs of southern Broward and Dade counties. Offers small groups, 10-minute boat rides to most dive sites, experienced and friendly staff, instruction, 3-day certification (PADI or PDIC), \$250. Dive packages vary: multiday packages with full rental, \$65.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF DEERFIELD BEACH

**DEERFIELD BEACH** • (800) 456-2088, (305) 420-0009 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives Deerfield Beach and Fort Lauderdale. Offers complete professional diving services, including equipment sales and service, and daily charters. Best package: 5 days/4 nights, tanks and weights, from \$269.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF FORT PIERCE

**FORT PIERCE** • (407) 461-4488 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives historical 1717 treasure ships, drift diving and a variety of artificial reefs. Offers full-service diving facilities. Daily charter starts at \$37; multiple days at reduced prices.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF LAKELAND

**LAKELAND** • (941) 648-4333 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives Fort Lauderdale to Dry Tortugas. Spearfishing trips to the Marquesas and the Dry Tortugas. Spearfishing dive package: 2 nights/3 days, tanks, air and meals, from \$450.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF PALM BAY

**PALM BAY** • (407) 723-8888 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale. Offers a wide range of services and conveniences. Best package: 5 days/4 nights, tanks and weights, from \$289. Call for personalized packages.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF PORT SAINT LUCIE

**PORT SAINT LUCIE** • (407) 398-0788 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Key Largo. Offers a wide variety of professional and personalized diving and charter services. Best package: 5 days/4 nights, 10 dives including tanks and weights, accommodations, \$359 per person.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF STUART

**STUART** • (407) 283-5588 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives from West Palm to the Florida Keys. Specializes in underwater video, offering classes, consultations and production. Best package: 5 days/4 nights, 10 boat dives, \$299 per person, dbl. occ.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF VERO BEACH

**VERO BEACH** • (407) 770-1188 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet:

<http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives the reefs and wrecks of West Palm Beach. Official dive service for the Disney Resort. Emphasis on customer service. Dive packages vary; call for details.

#### DIXIE DIVERS OF WEST PALM BEACH

**WEST PALM BEACH** • (800) 456-3188, (407) 969-6688 • e-mail: [dixiediv@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dixiediv@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.padi.com/dixiedivers.htm> • Dives wrecks, including the Princess Anne and Mizpah, drift diving on reefs. Gear handling. Best package: 4 days/3 nights, 6 dives, \$188.

#### ENDLESS SUMMER CHARTERS

**LAKE PARK** • (800) 2-GO-DOWN, (407) 881-1595 • Dives Palm Beach County and Marathon. 37 years experience. Offers 2 locations, personalized diving services and a commitment to fun and safe diving. Dive packages are custom-tailored.

#### FATHOMS O' FUN

**POMPANO BEACH** • (800) 226-7303, (954) 942-7333 • e-mail: [fathomsfun@aol.com](mailto:fathomsfun@aol.com) • Internet: <http://members.aol.com/fathomsfun> • Dives from Boca Raton to Fort Lauderdale. Offers shark dives and quick rides to dive sites.

#### LIGHTHOUSE DIVE CENTER

**POMPANO BEACH** • (954) 782-1100 • e-mail: [xprqlia@prodigy.com](mailto:xprqlia@prodigy.com) • Internet: <http://members.aol.com/fathomsfun> • Dives from Boca Inlet to Port Everglades, reef systems and various wrecks. PADI 5-star training facility, custom charter dive vessels, nitrox fills and instruction, shark dives, technical dives and instruction, underwater videos and personal service. Best package: 2-tank dives daily, hotel, tanks and weights, and unlimited beach dives, \$79 per person, prepaid.

#### OMEGA BLUE, INC.

**POMPANO BEACH** • (800) 755-3111, (954) 783-3111 • e-mail: [omegablu@gate.net](mailto:omegablu@gate.net) • Internet: <http://www.omegablue.com> • Dives Boca Inlet to Port Everglades. Custom, 6-passenger boat. Best package: Diving and hotel, \$74.50 per day, per person, dbl. occ.

#### PRO DIVE

**FORT LAUDERDALE** • (800) 772-3483, (954) 761-3413 • Dives Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. Offers 60-foot glass-bottom boat, 2 warm-water showers, snack bar and head. Best package: 2-night minimum stay, dive, tanks and weights, \$69 per night, per person, dbl. occ.

#### THE SCUBA CLUB, INC.

**WEST PALM BEACH** • (800) 835-2466, (407) 844-2466 • Dives West Palm Beach area and Jupiter. Offers on-premises dive boat, 2 swimming pools, steam room, photo darkroom, gear storage and drift dives. Dive packages vary: 1 dive, \$23; suite, \$75 per night.

#### SUN STAR AQUATICS

**BOCA RATON** • (407) 368-9952 • Dives Delray Beach to Pompano Beach. 25 years experience. Offers reef, drift and wreck dives, fast boats, small groups and nitrox fills. Dive packages vary.

## HAWAII

In this land of perpetual summer, more than 100 dive operators have set up shop on the four major islands: Hawaii, Maui, Oahu and Kauai. They do a brisk business whisking divers to the area's signature lava tubes and caverns, ocean pinnacles, drop-offs and reefs.

But it's the amazing variety of marine life that makes this rugged volcanic seascape come alive. Because the Hawaiian Islands are one of the most geographically isolated spots on Earth, a stunning 30 percent of marine creatures are



endemic, including several species of scorpion and lionfish. Add in the variety of diving—from beginner to advanced, shore diving to drift—and you understand why this is one of the most visited destinations in the Pacific.

**► WEATHER:** Warm with cooling trade winds. September is the hottest month, but temperatures vary little year-round, averaging 68F to 83F. November to March is the rainy season.

**► AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Winter and spring, mid- to high 70Fs; summer and fall, low 80Fs.

**► VISIBILITY:** Generally excellent, although it varies from island to island. Often exceeds 100 feet.

**► THREE GREAT DIVES:** The floodlights of Hawaii's Kona Surf Hotel attract schools of manta rays for an experience that is one part night dive, two parts ballet. The crescent ridge of Molokini Crater breaks the surface to create a bay-like entrance that acts as a marine preserve on one side and provides a dramatic wall dive on the other—when conditions and your skills allow. At Oahu's Twin Caves, a favorite advanced dive, two vertical lava tubes accompany a stomach-churning wall covered with nudibranchs of outrageous hues and lineage.

## HAWAII DIVE OPERATORS

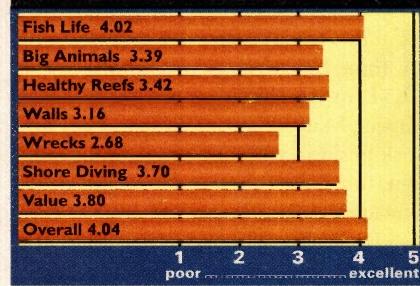
### AARON'S DIVE SHOPS

PEARL CITY, OAHU • (808) 487-5533 • e-mail: [aarons@aloha.com](mailto:aarons@aloha.com) • Dives Oahu. 25 years experience, guides on every dive.

### ALOHA DIVE SHOP

HONOLULU, OAHU • (800) 395-5922, (808) 395-5922 • Dives Turtle Canyon, Koko Craters. 25 years experience, PADI Outstanding Achievement Award recipient.

## Reader Ratings Hawaii



and special attention given to students, newly certified and "rusty" divers.

### ALOHA TOWER OCEAN CONCEPTS

HONOLULU, OAHU • (808) 537-DIVE • Dives the west coast; in summer, dives the north shore. Offers private instruction 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

### AQUATIC CHARTERS OF MAUI, INC.

KIHEI, MAUI • (808) 879-0976 • Dives Molokini Island Marine Reserve, La Perouse Bay and Maui's south shore. Offers 6-passenger dive boats, private boat charters and personalized attention.

### ATLANTIS REEF DIVERS

HONOLULU, OAHU • (800) 554-6267, (808) 973-

1295 • Dives Mahi, YO-257, Shark's Cove, Three Tables and Makaha Caverns. Offers opportunities to dive with Atlantis submarine; has extensive snorkeling and diving facilities. Best package: 2 days diving, night dive, \$170.

### BEACH DIVERS HAWAII

HONOLULU, OAHU • (800) 535-2487, (808) 737-7966 • e-mail: [71644.1573@compuserve.com](mailto:71644.1573@compuserve.com) • internet: <http://www.aloha.com/~bdh> • Dives the west side of Oahu only. Jet dive boat, 14 divers max., all instructors are naturalist specialty instructors. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Best package: 3 days diving, \$521.

### BIG ISLAND DIVERS

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 488-6068, (808) 329-6068 • Dives more than 35 sites along the Kona Coast on the Big Island, including lava tubes, arches and pinnacles. Offers pampered service. Best package: 3 days or more, \$60 per day, including tanks and weights; \$70 with all equipment.

### BILL'S SCUBA SHACK

KIHEI, MAUI • (800) 950-DIVE, (808) 879-3483 • Dives Molokini Crater, South Maui and Wailea. Offers a full-service diving facility, including nitrox and specialty dive classes by request.

### BODY GLOVE CRUISES

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 551-8911, (808) 326-7122 • e-mail: [bcruses@ilhawaii.net](mailto:bcruses@ilhawaii.net) • Dives Pawai Bay, and the Kona Coast of the Big Island. Deluxe snorkel/dive trimaran. Half-day trips include continental breakfast and deli lunch.

### BREEZE HAWAII

HONOLULU, OAHU • (808) 735-1857 • Dives Oahu, Hawaii and Kona. Dives the south side of Oahu.

### BUBBLES BELOW SCUBA CHARTERS

KAPAA, KAUAI • (808) 822-DIVE • e-mail: [kaimanu@aloha.net](mailto:kaimanu@aloha.net) • internet: <http://www.aloha.net/~kaimanu/>

• Dives all sides of Kauai, Niihau and Lehua Rock. Custom-tailored marine biology dives, multilevel profiles and twilight/night dives. Best packages: 2-tank boat dive, \$85; on 3rd through 6th day receive 15 percent discount; 7th charter is free. 3-tank Niihau, Lehua Rock trips, \$200.

### CAPT. NEMO'S OCEAN EMPORIUM

LAHAINA, MAUI • (800) 367-8088, (808) 661-5555 • e-mail: [garland@maui.net](mailto:garland@maui.net) • Dives Maui, Lanai and Molokini. PADI 5-star facility, rental and repair, beach and night diving.

### CAPTAIN COOK DIVERS

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 525-7234, (808) 329-2243 • Dives Honaunau Bay's Place of Refuge, and Carousels, Golden Arches, South Point and Milolii. Offers shark cage dives and 42-foot vessel with high-tech features. 2-day shark cage dive package, \$890.

### DIVE KAUAI SCUBA CENTER

KAPAA, KAUAI • (808) 82U-DIVE, (808) 822-0452 • Dives the north and south coasts of Kauai, Tunnels, Brenneke's Ledge, Niihau, Mana Crack, Turtle Bluffs and Sheraton Caverns. PADI 5-star IDC facility offers personalized service, soft weights. Best package: 7 days/6 nights, 7 days of 2-tank boat dives, hotel and car package, \$1,165 per person.

### DIVE MAKAI CHARTERS

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (808) 329-2025 • Dives the Kona Coast on the Big Island. Offers a "Read the Reef" program that focuses on the life and activities of underwater animals and their environment; small guided groups. Booking office: World Travel, (800) 646-7304. Call for details.

### DIVE MAUI

LAHAINA, MAUI • (808) 667-2080 • e-mail: [offshore@maui.net](mailto:offshore@maui.net) • internet: <http://www.maui.net/~offshore/> • Dives Maui, Lanai, Molokai and Molokini. Versatility, flexibility, customized itineraries, personal service. Custom packages; call for details.

### DIVE & SEA MAUI

KIHEI, MAUI • (808) 874-1952 • e-mail: [lynda@maui.net](mailto:lynda@maui.net) • Dives south Maui, Molokini Islet, including the crater, drift dives and shark ledges. Small operation, 6-passenger boat, rentals, air, PADI certifications, emphasis on customer service. Best packages: 2 days, 4 dives, \$180; 3 days, 6 dives, \$255; includes gear and lunch.

### DIVE WAIKIKI

WAIPAHU, OAHU • (800) 808-DIVE, (808) 949-DIVE • e-mail: [oceanic@aloha.com](mailto:oceanic@aloha.com) • internet: <http://www.aloha.com/~oceanic> • Dives the west coast of Oahu, the Mahi and Makaha Caverns. Trips to Maui, Kauai and Hawaii available. Daily charters, introductory dives, snorkeling and cruise tours, underwater

camera and video service. Best package: 1 day on dive boat with warm-water showers, sundeck, tanks and weights included, \$73.

### EAST HAWAII DIVERS

PAHOA, HAWAII • (808) 965-7840 • Dives the Big Island. Offers shore dives, private tours, flexible scheduling and personalized service.

### ECO-ADVENTURES

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 949-3483, (808) 329-7116 • e-mail: [ecodive@ilhawaii.net](mailto:ecodive@ilhawaii.net) • internet: <http://www.travelbase.com/activities/scuba/eco-adventures> • Dives 66 sites, including encounters with turtles, mantas and dolphins. Offers personal service, small groups, marine life briefings, deli lunch, gear handling, roomy boats, blue water and long-range charters, only PADI 5-star IDC facility and ANDI nitrox facility on Hawaii. Booking offices: Underwater Sports, PADI Travel Network. Best package: 6 nights oceanview room, 6 days rental car, daily buffet breakfasts, and 4 days of 2-tank, 2-location charters that include tanks, air, lunch, guide, all taxes, \$590 per person, dbl. occ. (restrictions apply).

### ED ROBINSON'S DIVING ADVENTURES

KIHEI, MAUI • (800) 635-1273, (808) 879-3584 • e-mail: [robinson@maui.net](mailto:robinson@maui.net) • internet: <http://www.mauis.net/~robinson/erda.html> • Dives more than 20 sites, including Molokini Crater, the south coast of Maui and Lanai Island. Offers personalized attention and an experienced staff, custom charters, small groups, and marine biology briefings before and after dives. Best package: 7 nights, accommodations at Village by the Sea (1 bdrm. condo on beach), sunset and night dive, Lanai Island (2 tanks), southern Maui (2 tanks), continental breakfast, snacks, beverages, deli style lunch, \$818.38.

### FATHOM FIVE DIVERS

KOLOA, KAUAI • (800) 972-3078, (808) 742-6991 • Internet: <http://www.fathomfive.com> • PADI 5-star facility, small charters, more than 24 dive sites. South shore of Kauai. Best package: 2nd trip, 5% off; 3rd trip, 10% off.

### HAWAII 4 DIVERS

WAIPAHU, OAHU • (800) 808-DIVE, (808) 677-7975 • Dives Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii. 5-star PADI dive center.

### HAWAIIAN DIVERS

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 525-PADI, (808) 329-5662 • Dives Thunder Reef, Bandit Ledge, Long Lava Tube, Hammerhead Point, Place of Refuge, manta night dive, deep wrecks and blue water. Offers shark cage diving, diving bell, high-tech diving, nitrox, tri-mix and rebreathers. Best package: 6 days, 3 days diving, 2 tanks daily, accommodations, \$390 per person, dbl. occ.

### HAWAIIAN REEF DIVERS

LAHAINA, MAUI • (800) 551-6767, (808) 667-7647 • Dives Maui, Lanai and Molokini. Family-run business, 15 years experience on Maui. Best package: 2-tank day dive, \$95; 2-day package, \$176; 3-day package, \$250; all equipment and snacks included.

### JACK'S DIVING LOCKER

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 345-4807, (808) 329-7585 • e-mail: [dive@ilhawaii.net](mailto:dive@ilhawaii.net) • internet: <http://www.ilhawaii.net/~dive> • Dives more than 80 sites, including arches, caverns, pinnacles and canyons on the Kona Coast of the Big Island. Emphasis on safety, friendly staff, 80 percent repeat business. Booking office: Travel Unlimited, (800) 683-1836, ext. 7284, (808) 329-0521. Best package: 5 nights accommodations at the Royal Kona Resort, 6 dives, car rental, taxes, \$621.

### KING KAMEHAMEHA DIVERS

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 525-PADI, (808) 329-5662 • Dives the Golden Arches, Sharon's Place, Plane Wreck and Blue Water. Marine biologist on staff. Best package: 6 days, accommodations, three 2-tank boat dives, \$390 per person, dbl. occ.

### KOHALA DIVERS LTD.

KAWAIHAE, HAWAII • (808) 882-7774 • Dives the Kohala Coast on the Big Island. Offers personalized dive tours and packages, small groups.

### KONA COAST DIVERS

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII • (800) 562-3483, (808) 329-8802 • e-mail: [divekona@ilhawaii.net](mailto:divekona@ilhawaii.net) • internet: <http://konacoastdivers.com> • Dives more than 40 sites along the Kona coast, including lava tubes, walls, reefs, arches and pillow lava flows. 2 custom-built dive boats, oil-less air compressors, high-tech repair, rentals and retail, and air-conditioned classroom with pool on-site. Dive packages vary: 3 nights, 2 days, 2-tank boat dive, \$240 (dbl. occ.); \$316 (sgl. occ.).



Tours of Hawaii, Inc.

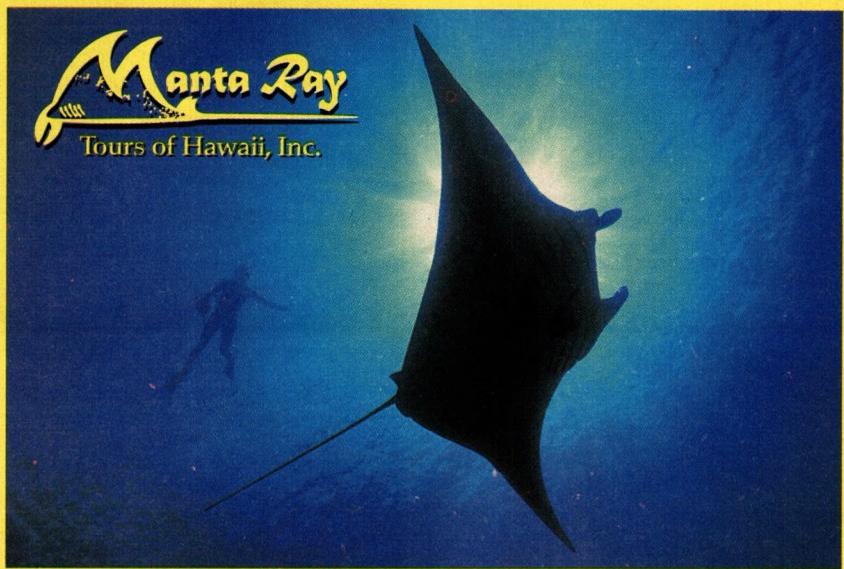


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Aloha! We're Manta Ray Tours and we want to take you diving to all the great spots in Kona and O'ahu. Our specialty is Kona's famous "Manta Ray Night Dive", which is conveniently located outside of our dive shop at the Kona Surf Resort. You can also explore the "Mahi Ship Wreck" on O'ahu—underwater or on the surface—from our 28-foot glass bottom boat. We offer room/car dive packages for your convenience.

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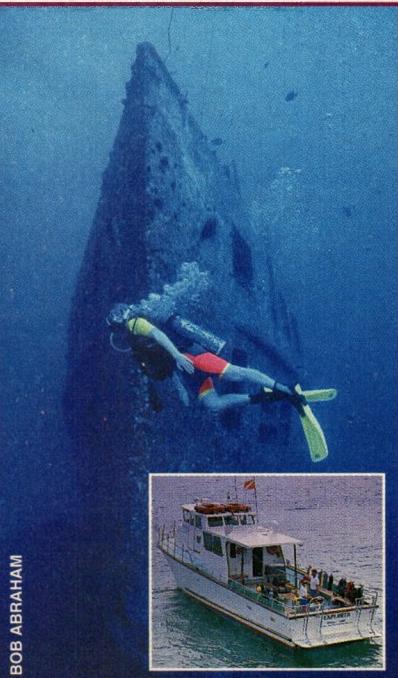
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### EXPLORE THE FINEST SHIPWRECKS IN HAWAII

Atlantis Reef Divers, now located at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki's largest resort, is proud to offer the best service in Hawaii: GUARANTEED! We offer half-day and multi-day packages to the most exciting wrecks and reefs on Oahu. Our 62' custom dive vessel, *Explorer*, is well equipped for the serious diver and our experienced staff is ready to show every diver the time of their life!

#### Atlantis Reef Divers features:

Shipwreck Dives to the "Y0257" & "The Mahi" • Night Dives  
Shore Dives • Refresher Dives  
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**LAHAINA DIVERS INC.**

**LAHAINA, MAUI** • (800) 998-3483, (808) 667-7496 • Dives Maui, Lanai and Molokini. Emphasizes service and comfort.

**MAHI DIVERS**

**WAIPAHU, OAHU** • (800) 808-DIVE, (808) 949-DIVE • e-mail: [ocean@aloha.com](mailto:ocean@aloha.com) • internet: <http://www.aloha.com/~oceanc> • Dives the west coast of Oahu, Mahi and Makaha Caverns. Trips to Maui, Kauai and Hawaii available. Daily charters, introductory dives, snorkeling and cruise tours, underwater camera and video service. Best package: 1 day on dive boat with warm-water showers, sundeck, tanks and weights included, \$73.

**MAKENA COAST CHARTERS**

**KIHEI, MAUI** • (800) 833-6483, (808) 874-1273 • e-mail: [mee@maui.net](mailto:mee@maui.net) • Dives Molokini and south shore of Maui. 6-passenger dive boat and trips for experienced and beginner divers and snorkelers. Best package: half-day boat trip with two dives, \$95.

**MANTA RAY TOURS OF HAWAII, INC.**

**KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII** • (800) 98-MANTA, (808) 326-7056 • Dives the south coast of Kailua-Kona. Offers a special manta ray dive, located outside the dive shop at the Kona Surf Resort. Dive packages vary. Receive free dives when you book accommodations with us.

**MAUI DIVE SHOP**

**KIHEI, MAUI** • (800) 542-3483, (808) 879-3388 • e-mail: [Mauidive@maui.net](mailto:Mauidive@maui.net) • Dives Maui County. 10 stores on Maui, 4 boats.

**OCEAN CONCEPTS SCUBA CHARTERS**

**WAIPAHU, OAHU** • (800) 808-DIVE, (808) 677-7975 • e-mail: [ocean@aloha.com](mailto:ocean@aloha.com) • internet: <http://www.aloha.com/~oceanc> • Dives the west coast of Oahu, Mahi and Makaha Caverns. Trips to Maui, Kauai and Hawaii available. Daily charters, introductory dives, snorkeling and cruise tours, underwater camera and video service. Best package: 1 day on dive boat with warm-water showers, sundeck, tanks and weights included, \$73.

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**LAHAINA, MAUI** • (808) 661-4363 • e-mail: [offshore@maui.net](mailto:offshore@maui.net) • internet: <http://www.maui.net/~offshore> • Dives Lanai, Molokini and Maui. Offers packages other than scuba. Best package: 5 nights, 3 days diving, accommodations, \$795 per person, dbl. occ.

**PACIFIC DIVE**

**KIHEI, MAUI** • (800) 876-5334, (808) 874-5332 • e-mail: [BJ Dives@aol.com](mailto:BJ Dives@aol.com) • Dives Molokini Crater, Lanai, and west and south coasts of Maui. PADI 5-star facility offers personalized services.

**PARADISE DIVERS**

**HONOLULU, OAHU** • (808) 921-3230 • Dives off Waikiki and Waianae Coast. Custom dive trips, caters to small groups.

**RAINBOW DIVER II**

**MILILANI, OAHU** • (800) 982-6747, (808) 625-7190 • e-mail: [rainbow@hula.net](mailto:rainbow@hula.net) • internet: <http://www.3routes.com/scuba/rainbow.html> • Dives the leeward coast of Oahu, including the Mahi and Makaha Caverns. Offers a glass-bottom dive boat, small groups (10 divers max.) and 18 years experience. Call for details.

**RED SAIL SPORTS HAWAII**

**KAMUELA, HAWAII** • (800) 255-6425, (808) 885-2876 • Dives the Kohala Coast on the Big Island. Other water-sports available. Packages vary; call for details.

**SANDWICH ISLE DIVERS**

**KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII** • (808) 329-9188 • Dives the Kona coast of Hawaii. Offers dive charters with small groups (6 passengers max.), personalized service. Offers equipment repairs, rental, retail, diving instruction. Best package: 2-tank dives to 2 locations, with equipment, \$80.

**SEA PARADISE SCUBA**

**KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII** • (808) 322-KONA, (808) 322-2500 • Dives Red Hill area, Kealakekua Bay, manta ray night dive. Southernmost dive operator in U.S. Custom packages available, including hotel or condo, diving and car rental. Call for details.

**SUNRISE & NITROX DIVERS OF KAUAI**

**KAPAA, KAUAI** • (800) 695-DIVE, (808) 822-REEF • Dives Kauai, north, east and south shores, and Niihau. Offers DPVs (dive propulsion vehicles), enriched air, and cavern diving specialties, 24-hour air, nitrox and oxygen fills, and kayak rentals. Best package: PADI enriched air diver specialty certification course, T-shirt, all gear, lunch, 2-tank boat dive or 1-tank DPV/scooter dive, \$298.

**SURF & SEA, INC.**

**HALEIWA, OAHU** • (800) 899-SURF (outer islands only), (808) 637-9887 • Dives the north shore, includ-

ing Shark's Cove and Three Tables, and the west side, including Kahe Point. Caters to small groups, personal attention. 5 minutes from dive sites. Call for prices.

**THE DIVE AUTHORITY**

**HONOLULU, OAHU** • (808) 596-PADI • e-mail: [ocean@aloha.com](mailto:ocean@aloha.com) • internet: <http://www.aloha.com/~oceanc> • Dives Oahu, especially the west coast and Waikiki. Retail store with a central location in Honolulu. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Best package: Three 2-tank dive package, \$194.

**TRINITY TOURS**

**LAHAINA, MAUI** • (800) 621-8942, (808) 661-8085 • Dives Maui's coast. Offers small groups, beach and night dives, and discount prices. Best package: 8 days/7 nights at bed and breakfast, car rental, three 2-tank boat dives, 1 night dive, \$699 per person, dbl. occ.

**WAIKIKI DIVING CENTER**

**HONOLULU, OAHU** • (808) 955-5151 • Dives Turtle Canyons, Magic Island, Haleiwa Trench, Kahe Point and YO-257. Small groups (6 divers max.) and turtle encounter dives. Booking office: Horizon Hawaii, (808) 923-2396. Best package: 2-tank boat dives daily, \$75.

**LIVE-ABOARD****KONA AGGRESSOR II**

## INDIAN OCEAN/RED SEA

The narrow, nearly landlocked Red Sea gets deep very close to shore. For reef-dwelling creatures who want to survive, that means crowding near the surface. For divers seeking lush, overabundant reefs, that's good news. Most Red Sea dive operations are clustered in the north—in the Gulf of Aqaba at Eilat, Israel, and on Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Hurghada on the west coast of the Red Sea.

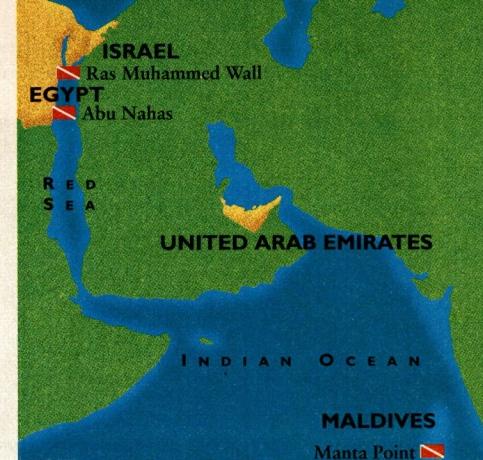
In the Indian Ocean, two island groups attract divers: the Seychelles and the Maldives. The Seychelles' claim to fame is one-of-a-kind endemic species. The Maldives, off the southern tip of India, feature gorgeous shallow reefs and fast currents.

► **WEATHER:** The Red Sea is surrounded by desert; be prepared for baking temperatures of 100°F or more. The Indian Ocean is affected by seasonal monsoons.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** The Indian Ocean around the Maldives and Seychelles is warm year-round. In the Red Sea, temps range from the low 70Fs in winter to the low 80Fs in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Excellent in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, though localized plankton blooms in the Red Sea can cut vis to 30 feet in places.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** On Ras Muhammed Wall at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula, you'll find a kaleidoscopic array of small tropicals as well as jacks, tuna and sharks cruising in from the deep. Dive five shipwrecks at a single site: Abu Nahas off Hurghada. From July to December, man-



tas come to breed at Manta Point in the Maldives' Kaafu Atoll.

**Egypt Dive Operators****SINAI DIVERS**

**SHARM EL SHEIKH, SOUTH SINAI** • (011) 2062-600697 • Dives the Egyptian Red Sea. 25 years in Sinai, only land-based operator in Sharm el Sheikh, 2 liveaboards in Sinai and 2 liveaboards in southern Egypt. Booking offices: International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 7 nights in the Ghazala Hotel, 5 days diving; call for details.

**ISRAEL DIVE OPERATORS****AQUA SPORT INTERNATIONAL**

**EILAT** • (011) 9727-334404 • Dives Eilat and the Sinai, from Taba to Sharm el Sheikh. PADI 5-star facility. Only dive operation on the beach. 2 other locations at Taba and Nuweiba, Sinai, Egypt. Package: From \$46 per person, per day.

**CORAL SEA DIVERS**

**EILAT** • (011) 9727-370337 • Dives Eilat, Sinai and Egypt. Offers VIP service. Booking offices: Adventure Express, International Diving Expeditions, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel. Best package: 6 days, 12 dives, \$200.

**DOLPHIN REEF DIVE CENTER**

**EILAT** • (011) 9727-375935 • Dives Eilat, Israel, Aqaba, Jordan, Sinai and Egypt. Offers dolphin dives. 6-day dive package, 2 dives daily, equipment, transportation and guide, \$159.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DIVE OPERATORS****CORAL REEF DIVING**

**ABU DHABI** • (011) 9712-795-034 • Dives the Persian Gulf. PADI instruction, gear sales, diving and fishing excursions, gear rental free with dive trip.

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**Red Sea/Seychelles  
FANTASEA II**

## JAMAICA

Better known as the home of reggae and Red Stripe, Jamaica doesn't get full credit for its diving. Surrounding the island is a shallow plateau of corals, and running along the

north shore is a 145-mile wall that drops into the Cayman Trench. Both are populated with an outrageous array of sponges and tropicals that attract vacationers and scientists alike.

If Jamaican diving has a reputation for being tame, it's due to the number of all-inclusive resorts that pamper guests. But adventure divers can find plenty of thrills diving remote sinks and rivers, or through the tangled roots of mangrove swamps where the crocodile is king.

► **WEATHER:** Winter daytime temperatures range between 76F and 86F, but soar into the 90Fs in summer. Expect brief showers during the early fall and spring.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Mid-70Fs in winter and mid-80Fs in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Averages 60 to 100 feet but can reach 150 feet in the summer.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Adventurous divers drink deeply at God's Well, a limestone sinkhole that spirals down to 158 feet. Devil's Reef off Ocho Rios is a steep coral pinnacle rising from 200 feet, sprouting dreadlocks of black coral and



### Reader Ratings Jamaica



colorful sponges. The Arena off Montego Bay features twin tunnels and the remains of a Spanish shipwreck encrusted into the coral wall.

### JAMAICA DIVE OPERATORS

#### GARFIELD DIVING STATION

OCHO RIOS BEACH • (809) 974-5749, (809) 995-3700  
**GRAND LIDO HOTEL/SCUBA**

NEGRIL • (809) 957-4010, EXT. 361 OR 383 • Dives many of the moored dive sites from Snapper Drop to the Deep Plane. Equipment carried to boat. Resort and refresher courses available. Visits private sites.

#### JAMAQUA DIVERS

RUNAWAY BAY • (809) 973-4845 • Dives Runaway Bay

and Montego Bay. Offers a PADI 5-star diving facility. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Best package: 6 days, 5 nights, 3 days of 2-tank boat dives daily, all-inclusive, \$556.

#### NEGRIL SCUBA CENTRE

NEGRIL • (800) 818-2963, (809) 957-4425 • e-mail: Negril@Nile.net.com • internet: http://www.nilenet.com • Dives Long Bay in Negril Harbor. Multilingual staff, emphasis on individual attention. Booking office: Jamaican Travel Specialist, (800) 544-5979, (510) 489-9552. Best package: 7 nights, 7 dives, \$450.

#### P.R. SCUBA TECHNOLOGIES, LTD.

ST. ANNS BAY • (809) 974-1880 • e-mail: mckenzie@infochan.com • Dives Ocho Rios walls, wrecks and reefs. All-inclusive dive packages available.

#### REEF DIVERS LTD./SUNFLOWER BEACH RESORT

RUNAWAY BAY • (800) 735-4610, (809) 973-4400 • Dives Runaway Bay, Spanish Anchor, Tunnel Reef, Joe's Reef, and various wrecks and walls. Offers personalized diving services, caters to small groups, specialty dives and eco-diving. Booking offices: Carousel Tours, (800) 735-4610; Karp Travel, (800) 864-2999. Best package: Accommodations, 3 buffet meals, drinks, 1 dive daily, unlimited snorkeling and sailing, transfers, all equipment, \$95 per person, per day (additional dives, \$20).

#### SANDALS DIVERS NEGRIL

NEGRIL • (800) SANDALS, (809) 957-4216 • Dives more than 40 sites off Negril. Quality equipment and professional service. All-inclusive packages available. Call for rates.

#### SEA AND DIVE JAMAICA LTD.

OCHO RIOS • (809) 974-5762 • Dives between Bammee Bay and Rio Nuevo. Emphasis on comfort, attention and service. 7 nights, 6 dives, accommodations, 6 breakfasts, 7 dinners, transfers, \$649 per person, dbl. occ.

#### SEA-RIV DIVERS

ALLIGATOR POND • (770) 952-7711 • Dives southern coast of Jamaica, including ocean, rivers and springs. Only dive operation in area, a "get-away-from-it-all" resort.

## MEXICO

In all the Americas, few countries offer the diversity of diving that Mexico does. The coastline of the Yucatan Peninsula is rich with Mayan history and

Caribbean reefs. The drift diving off Cozumel, one of the most popular dive destinations outside the United States, is some of the world's best. Isla Mujeres and the mainland touristopolis of Cancun have excellent wrecks and fish-stuffed shallow reefs, while cave and cavern divers trek to Akumal to explore cenotes and caves carved by the relentless flow of water through limestone.

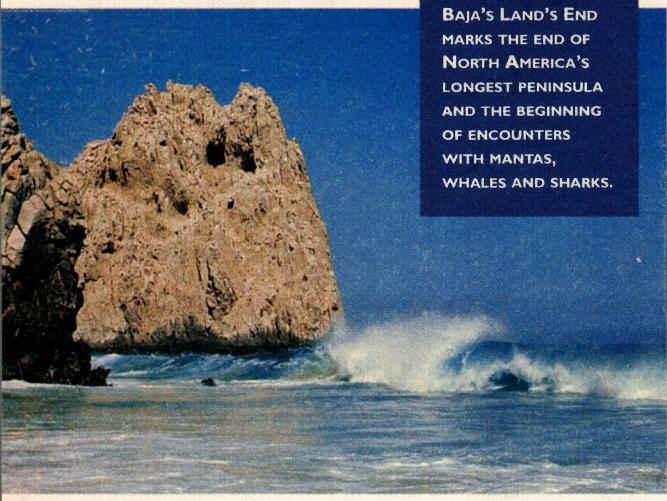
On the Pacific coast, the rocky underwater terrain of pinnacles and seamounts lacks the color of Caribbean reefs, but attracts a variety of big marine life from yellowfin tuna to manta rays, gray whales and hammerhead sharks. Travelers seeking these wild encounters most often head to the Sea of Cortez by way of the Baja Peninsula and its well-known dive centers, La Paz and Cabo San Lucas. But adventurous divers will also find a warm welcome and year-round diving in the mainland coastal towns of San Carlos, Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta, Mazanillo and Ixtapa.

► **WEATHER:** The Yucatan averages 200 days of sunshine a year with temperatures ranging from 75F in winter to 85F in summer. Mexico's Pacific coast has hot, balmy summers with highs in the 90Fs and winters where temperatures range from the 60Fs at night to 80Fs during the day.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Mid-80Fs in summer and mid-70Fs in winter for the Yucatan; mid-80Fs in summer and mid-60Fs in winter on the Pacific coast.



## Mexico



**BAJA'S LAND'S END**  
MARKS THE END OF  
NORTH AMERICA'S  
LONGEST PENINSULA  
AND THE BEGINNING  
OF ENCOUNTERS  
WITH MANTAS,  
WHALES AND SHARKS.

► **VISIBILITY:** Yucatan visibility averages 150 feet or greater year-round, while Pacific coast vis fluctuates from 70 feet in summer to 90 feet in winter.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** The tunnels and deep swim-throughs at Cozumel's Punta Sur offer a glimpse inside towering coral heads and a chance to spy on snoozing nurse sharks. Get your adrenaline flowing even before you touch water by making the 15-foot free-fall into the Temple of Doom cenote near Akumal. El Bajo

RANDY HARWOOD/EAHTWATER

seamount, located nine miles off La Paz in the Sea of Cortez, is a congregation of three pinnacles that attracts schooling hammerhead sharks and curious divers.

### MEXICO DIVE OPERATORS

#### Baja California

**AMIGOS DEL MAR/HOTEL SOLMAR CABO SAN LUCAS** • (800) 344-3349, (310) 459-9861 • Internet: <http://www.traveler.net/solmar> • Dives the Sea of Cortez, including Cabo San Lucas, Cabo Pulmo and Gordo Banks. Offers specialized advanced dives to qualified divers. Booking office: Cabo Resort Reservations, (800) 344-3349. Best package: 3 nights accommodations, 2 dinners, 2 days diving,

guide, equipment, \$279.

#### ANDROMEDA DIVERS

**CABO SAN LUCAS** • (011) 52-114-32765 • Dives in and around the Bay and Gordo Banks. Offers certifications, specialty dives, gear rental, watersports, ecological guided tours, custom tours to small groups. Best package: 2-tank dive, \$60.

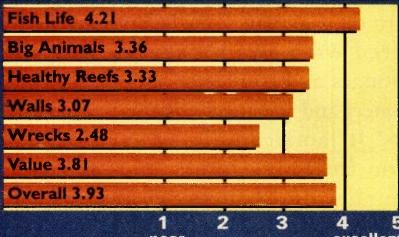
#### BAJA DIVE ADVENTURES

(800) 533-8452, (503) 386-7639 • e-mail: [mrbillbaja@aol.com](mailto:mrbillbaja@aol.com) • Dives southern Baja, Sea of Cortez, east cape region, Cabo Pulmo. Offers personal service, kayak and boat dives. Best package: 7 nights, beachfront villa, 3 days of 2-tank boat dives, 2 shore dives, \$450 per person, dbl. occ.

#### BAJA EXPEDITIONS

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### Reader Ratings Baja California



### Reader Ratings Cancun



### Reader Ratings Cozumel



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[nor.conacyt.mx/bajaex/baja.html](http://nor.conacyt.mx/bajaex/baja.html) • Dives La Paz, Sea of Cortez, Baja California and Mexico. Offers both live-aboard and day diving services. Booking offices: Tropical Adventures Travel, Poseidon Venture Tours. Best package: 3 nights, 2 days diving, hotel, 6-tank dives, meals, \$299.

#### CABO ACUADEPORTES

**CABO SAN LUCAS • (011) 52-114-30117** • Dives Cabo San Lucas Bay, Sand Falls, Sea Lion Colony, seamounts, and various grottoes, wrecks and reefs. Offers all levels of NAUI, PADI and SSI instruction, 2 beachfront locations, freshwater showers, equipment drying rooms and rinse tanks. Booking office: Dive Tours.

#### LAND'S END DIVERS

**CABO SAN LUCAS • (800) 675-3483, (011) 52-114-32200** • Dives the Sea of Cortez, Cabo San Lucas Bay, Sand Fall, Sea Lion Colony, Chileno Reef, Santa Maria Reef, Gordo Banks, Cabo Pulmo and many other sites. Offers personalized diving services, small groups (6 divers max.). Booking office: Rohnert Park Dive Center, (707) 584-2323. Best package: 4 nights at Plaza las Glorias Hotel, three 2-tank dives, \$350 per person, dbl. occ.

#### TIO WATERSPORTS

**CABO SAN LUCAS • (800) 246-6226, (011) 52-114-32986** • Dives Sand Falls, Santa Maria, Gordo Banks and Cabo Pulmo. Offers a full selection of land sports and watersports. Best package: 3 nights/2 days, 2-tank dives, \$368.

#### Cancun

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**(800) 351-1622, (011) 52-984-56236** • Cenote, jungle, cavern and open-water diving. Small groups, underwater cavern tours, personalized service.

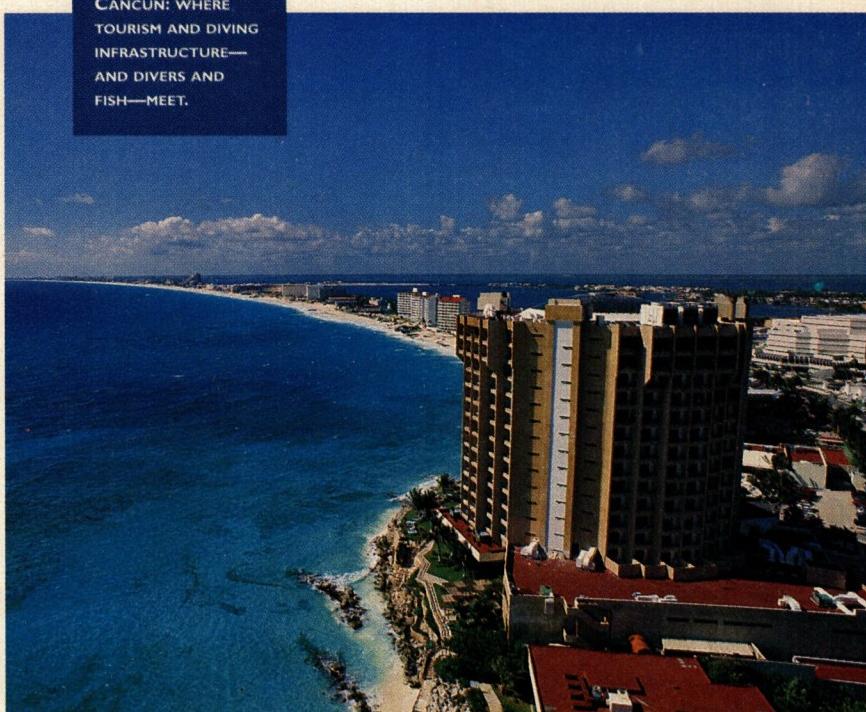
##### CLUB MED/CANCUN

**(800) CLUB-MED** • Dives Punta Nizuc and Cozumel. Offers 2-day resort classes and excursions to freshwater cenotes. Package includes 6 dives and equipment, \$65.

##### MANTA DIVERS

**(011) 52-988-34050** • Dives Isla Mujeres reefs, Punta Cancun and Cenote Cavern. Offers trips for advanced and beginner divers and guided dive tours to Cozumel

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**(011) 52-988-34632** • Dives Cancun, Cozumel and freshwater caverns of the Yucatan Peninsula. Offers scheduled daily departures, equipment rental, electric air compressor, multilingual staff.

##### SOLO BUCEO

**(011) 52-988-30100, EXT. 8715, (011) 52-988-33977**  
• Dives Cancun, Cozumel, Tulum cenotes.

##### Cozumel

##### AQUA SAFARI

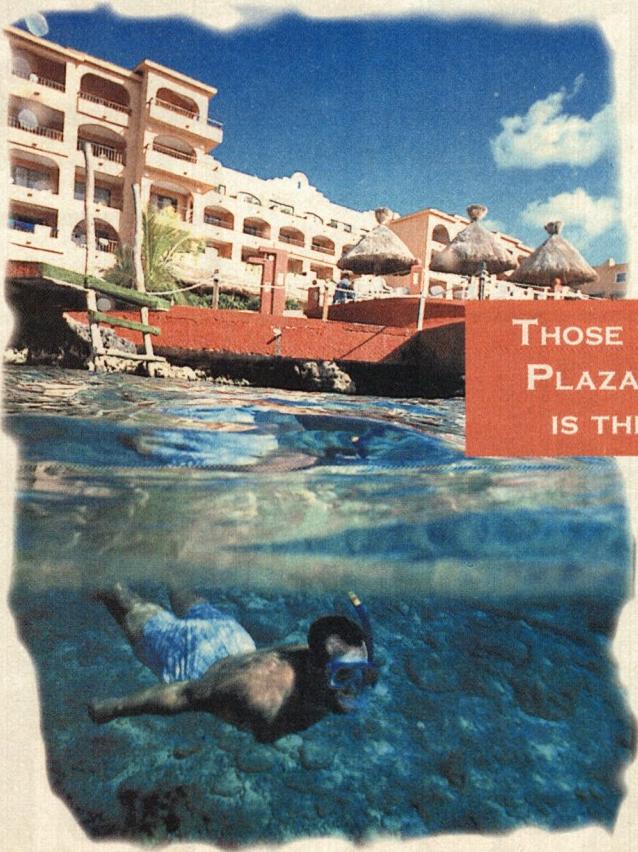
**(011) 52-987-20101** • Dives Cozumel National Park, 30

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Mexico



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(011) 52-987-20640 • Dives Palancar, Colombia, Punta Sur, Maracaibo and Barracuda Reefs, plus Paso Del Cedral and Santa Rosa. 25 years experience. Offers a multilingual staff and custom-tailored trips for small groups. Booking office: International Diving Expeditions. Best package: Diving, lunch, room, \$160 per day, per person, dbl. occ.

**BLACK SHARK DIVE SHOP**

(011) 52-987-20396 • Dives Santa Rosa, Palancar, Colombia, Punta Sur and Barracuda. Offers comfortable, safe and fast boats, 7 divers max., flexible schedules and a multilingual staff. Best package: 7 nights hotel, 5 days of 2-tank boat dives, 1 night dive, \$351.

**BLACK BUBBLE DIVERS**

(800) 878-8853, (011) 52-987-21865 • Dives Cozumel area. Offers personalized service, fast dive boats and a professional staff. Booking office: Travel Depot, (800) 878-8853. Best package: 3 nights, 2 days, \$150.

**CARIBBEAN DIVERS INTERNATIONAL**

(800) 874-7312, (011) 52-987-21080 • Dives Cozumel reefs including Colombia, Palancar, Santa Rosa, San Francisco, Yucab, Tormentos, Cedar Pass, Paradise, Chankanaab, Punta Sur, Barracuda and Maracaibo. Professional bilingual staff offers NAUI, PADI and PDIC instruction, focuses on safety, quality service and teamwork. Booking office: Pied Piper Travel, (800) 874-7312. Best package: Hotel and 2-tank diving, \$59 to \$69 per day. Choice of 6 hotels.

**COZUMEL CUSTOM AQUATICS**

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#### DEL MAR AQUATICS

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#### DIMI EDUCATIONAL DIVE CENTER

(011) 52-987-22915 • Dives all reefs in Cozumel. Owner-operated, multilevel dives, 8 divers max. Best package: 4 nights, 3 days diving, breakfast and lunch on diving days, \$163 per person, dbl. occ.

#### DISCOVER DIVE SHOP

(011) 52-987-20280 • e-mail: 103531.314@compuserve.com • internet: http://www.virtual-showcase.com/lcc/chuck-jones/cenote.html • Dives Palancar, Santa Rosa, Punta Sur and Yucab. Offers experienced, personalized diving services to small and medium groups, cave and cavern tours. Booking office: Adventure Sports Scuba-Sailing, (612) 949-0909.

#### DIVE HOUSE COZUMEL

(011) 52-987-21953 • Dives all sites throughout Cozumel. Offers professional and customized diving services. Booking offices: Island Dreams, PADI Travel Network, Tropical Concepts, Tropical Tours, Dive Tours, Sand Dollar Tours.

#### DIVE PALANCAR/DIAMOND RESORT COZUMEL

(011) 52-987-23443, EXT. 895 • Dives Palancar, Colombia, Punta Sur, Santa Rosa, El Cedral, Dalia, French Reef. Offers full service and instruction in diving, snorkeling, sailing, fishing and wind-

surfing. Booking office: Dive Tours, Tropical Adventures Travel, Tropical Concepts.

#### DIVE PARADISE

(800) 308-5125, (011) 52-987-21007 • Offers a variety of diving spots with a focus on safety and

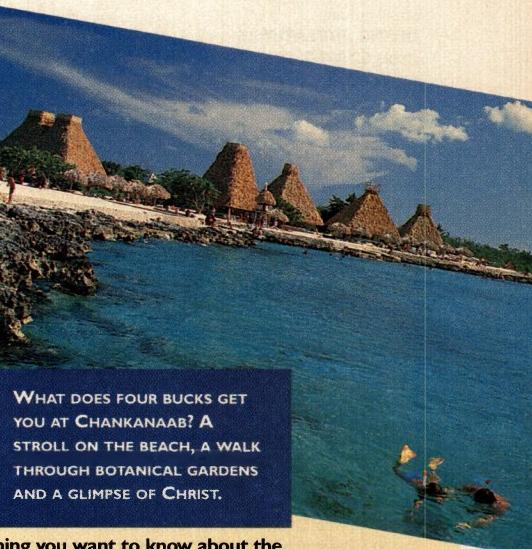
## THE BEST OF COZUMEL Topside Diversions

**M**ost Cozumel veterans can recall a few loud nights at Carlos 'n Charlie's—Cozumel's most raucous night spot. But they also know that evening entertainment runs the gamut from quiet dinners at La Choza to Monday night football at the Sports Bar to native dances in the town square. Here are some other choices for topside entertainment on Mexico's largest Caribbean island.

► **Stroll the Mayan ruins of San Gervasio**—believed to be the ceremonial grounds of Ix Chel, the goddess of childbirth and fertility. Admission: \$4.50.

► **Climb Point Celeraín Lighthouse**. The panoramic view of the island is well worth the \$1 the lighthouse keeper charges for the privilege. On Sunday afternoons, he serves up fried fish and beer to beachgoers.

► **The Museum of Cozumel** tells you every-



WHAT DOES FOUR BUCKS GET YOU AT CHANKANAAB? A STROLL ON THE BEACH, A WALK THROUGH BOTANICAL GARDENS AND A GLIMPSE OF CHRIST.

thing you want to know about the island's cultural and natural history. Admission: \$3.

► **Chankanaab National Park** is the perfect place to spend an afternoon beach lounging, touring the botanical gardens or snorkeling out to the submerged Christ statue. Admission: \$4.

► **Weekend festivals** in the central town square are free and feature live music, plenty of local contact, and lots of street vendors.

► **The Mexican Rodeo Show** at the Cozumel Arena on Wednesday nights is family-style fun with singing cowboys, dancing horses, and a bloodless exhibition bullfight. Admission: \$15.

D. HOLDEN BAILEY

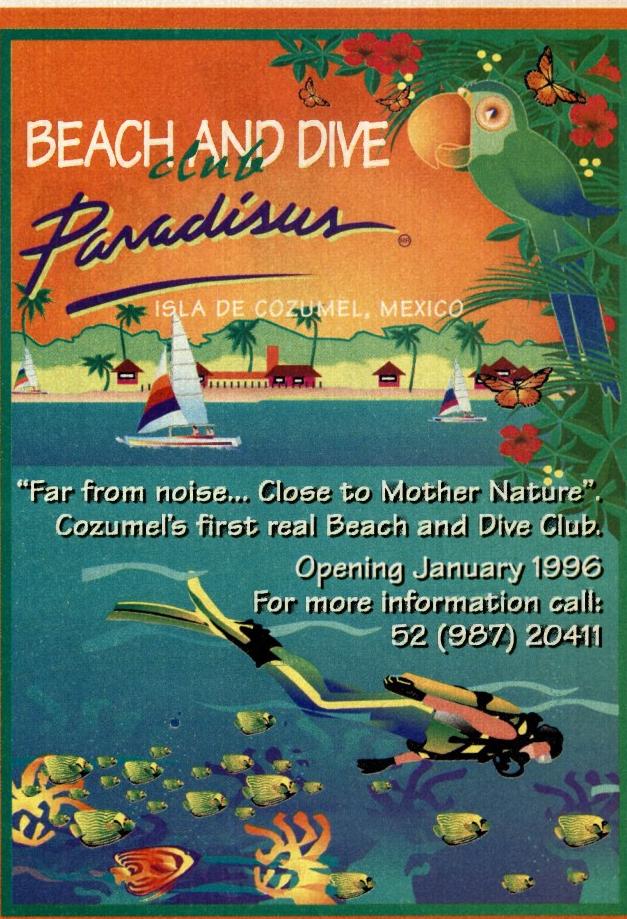


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## Mexico

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(011) 52-987-23009 • Dives from Barracuda to Maracaibo, including Palancar, Santa Rosa and various shallows. Offers personalized and professional diving services with a no-rush atmosphere. Best package: 4 days accommodations, 3 days diving, no meals included, \$250.

### FANTASIA DIVERS

(800) 504-0552, (011) 52-987-21210 • Dives Palancar Gardens, Horseshoe and caves, Paso el Cedral, Yucab and other reef sites. Specialized trips for advanced dives to Punta Sur and Maracaibo. Pier pickup, diving lockers, rinse tanks, shore diving. Booking office: Grand Club, (800) 504-0552, (713) 978-6988. Best package: 7 nights, all-inclusive, 15 tanks, \$740 per person, dbl. occ.

### GALAPAGO INN/SCUBA COZUMEL

(800) 847-5708 • Dives the underwater park of Cozumel. 20 years continuous operation, dedicated dive resort, emphasis on quality of boats and staff. Best package: 7 nights, meals, 5 days of 2-tank boat diving, unlimited beach diving, \$622 per person, dbl. occ.

### MARINE SPORTS

(800) FIESTA-1, (011) 52-987-22899/22900, EXT. 2035 • Dives Santa Rosa, Palancar, Colombia, Tormentos and Maracaibo. Booking offices: Island Dreams, Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel. Best package: 4 days/3 nights in deluxe room, 2 days of 2-tank dives, buffet breakfasts, welcome drink, \$212 per person, dbl. occ.

### PAPA HOGS SCUBA EMPORIUM

(011) 52-987-21651 • Dives southern sites, Barracuda and San Juan in the north. Canadian-owned and operated, offers 12-hour round-the-island trip and computer diving.

### SCUBA-DU

(011) 52-987-20322, EXT. 4109 • Dives Palancar Reef, Santa Rosa Wall and La Francesca. Offers personal attention, small groups and fast, custom-built boats. Booking offices: PADI Travel Network, Island Dreams, Dive Tours.

### STUDIO BLUE COZUMEL

(011) 52-987-24414 • Dives Palancar, Santa Rosa, Punta

Sur, Barracuda, Maracaibo and Colombia Reefs. Offers personal service to small groups of 2 to 6 divers. Booking office: Blue Water Scuba Nashville, (615) 356-9340. Diving and hotel package, \$70 per person, dbl. occ.

### WILDCAT DIVERS COZUMEL

(011) 52-987-21028 • Dives Palancar, Colombia, Santa Rosa and various area reefs. Caters to small groups, fast boats, flexible schedule. Booking office: Crystal Travel, (800) 338-2133. Best package: 7 nights, accommodations, 6 2-tank boat dives, 1 night dive, \$520.

### Pacific Coast

#### CLUB MED/PLAYA BLANCA

JALISCO • (800) CLUB-MED • Dives Playa Blanca. 2-day resort and open-water classes are included in price.

#### CLUB MED/SONORA BAY

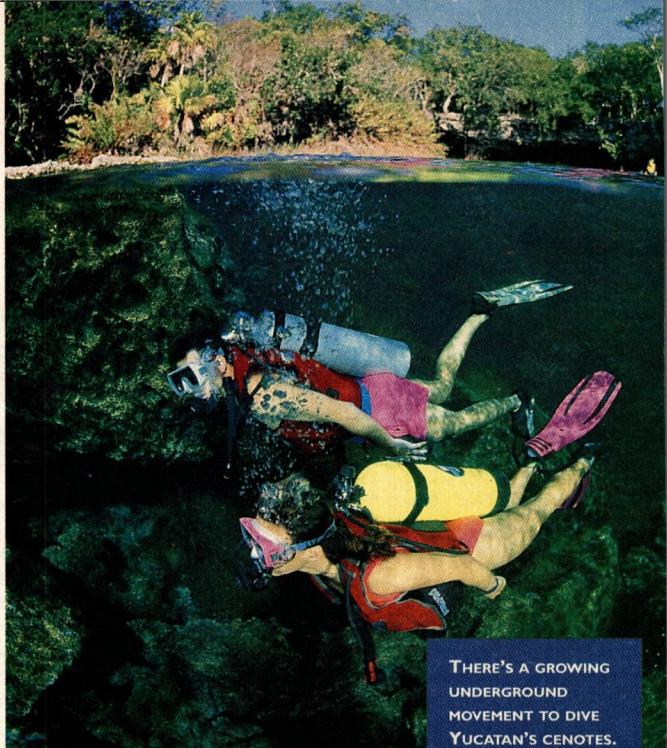
GUAYMAS • (800) CLUB-MED • Dives Seal Island, encounters with seals and sea lions, wrecks. Offers 2-day resort classes, open-water and advanced instruction classes. Package includes 13 dives and equipment, \$125.

#### VALLARTA DIVERS

PUERTO VALLARTA • (011) 52-322-10492 • e-mail: valarta/divers@go2mexico.com • internet: http://www.go2mexico.com • Dives the Bay of Banderas: Majahuita, Marietas Islands, El Morro, El Sequial and Chimo. Caters to small groups, equipment, PADI dive center and divemasters.

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**C**ozumel is famous for effortless drift diving above the Stygian void of Palancar Reef, among the sponge vines of Santa Rosa Wall, and past the Volkswagen-sized grouper of Cedar Pass. But if you're up for a challenge, ask your divemaster about these advanced spots. When you do, be prepared to produce your logbook and have your diving skills scrutinized before a divemaster agrees to take you there.

## Barracuda Reef

**DEPTH:** 70-80 feet

**SKILL LEVEL:** Expert

**CURRENT:** Very strong, unpredictable

Along the flat, strip reefs bordering the sand flats north of San Miguel, the predictable south-north current can eddy into unpredictable flows, even

swirling into down currents. The namesake silver fish and schools of jacks are common. You might even glimpse a gray reef shark, green turtles or eagle rays.

## Punta Sur

**DEPTH:** 80-130+ feet

**SKILL LEVEL:** Advanced to Expert

**CURRENT:** Strong

Tunnels take you inside the reef to cavernous ballrooms decorated in sponges. Nurse sharks nap on the sandy floors and eagle rays cruise the open water of the Cozumel Channel. Just by sure to keep your fins high and an eye on your tank pressure.

## Maracaibo Deep

**DEPTH:** 90-130+ feet

**SKILL LEVEL:** Advanced to Expert

**CURRENT:** Strong

The wall starts at about 90 feet, but you drop down to 130 feet for a drift past plate corals, deep-water gorgonians, elephant ear sponges and bushy tufts of black coral. Keep an eye on the open water for those hard-to-find pelagics including reef sharks, manta rays and loggerhead turtles.

## El Islete

**DEPTH:** 40-60 feet

**SKILL LEVEL:** Expert

**CURRENT:** Strong

Divers with professional scuba skills can ride the currents from the Maracaibo shallows around the southern tip of the island to pristine, next-to-virgin strips of reef running perpendicular to shore. Just be prepared for brisk currents and plenty of chop.

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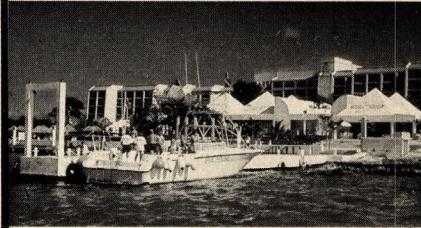
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## Mexico

along the Playa del Carmen coast. Offers cenote diving and cave and cavern dives. Dive packages vary.

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### LIVE-ABOARD

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**DON JOSE, RIO RITA**  
**Baja, Socorro**  
**SOLMAR V**  
**Cozumel, Yucatan**  
TTC COZUMEL DIVING

## PACIFIC

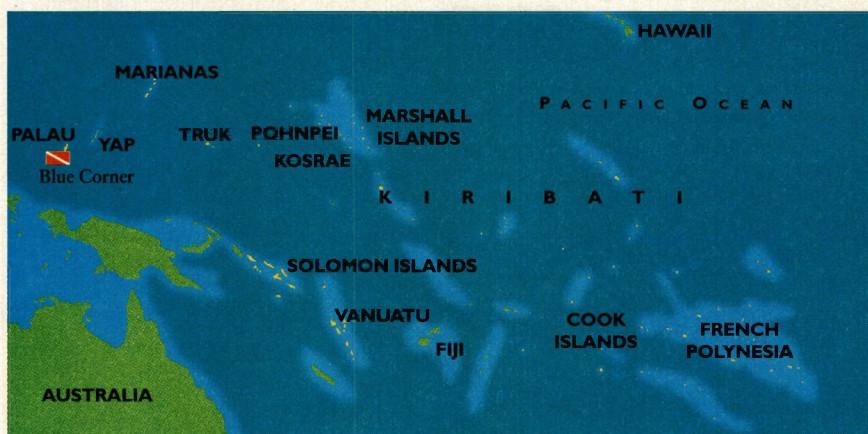
**P**alau, Truk, Yap, Sipadan—the names of these perennial dive favorites are as familiar to most divers as the names of their own dive buddies. Less well-known are the hot-ticket dive destinations of the next century—places like Thailand's Similan Islands, the Philippines' Tubabata Reefs and Indonesia's Nusa Penida.

The vast majority of potential diving in the Pacific remains untapped. If you hope to



dive even a fraction of what the largest of our oceans offers, pack your dive bag and buy a plane ticket now. Start with Truk Lagoon and the greatest collection of World

War II wrecks in the world. Dive with the mantas of Yap, the turtles of Sipadan and the sharks of Rangiroa. Then try Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pohnpei or Phuket.



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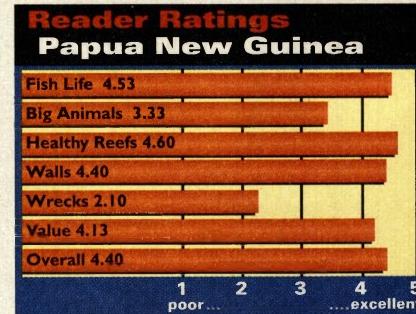
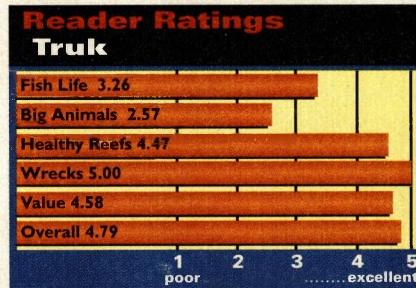
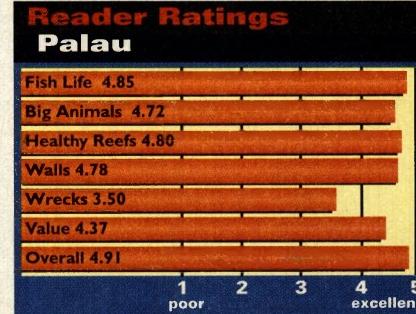
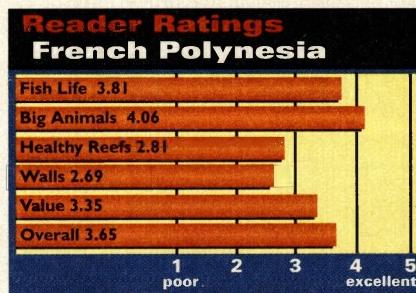
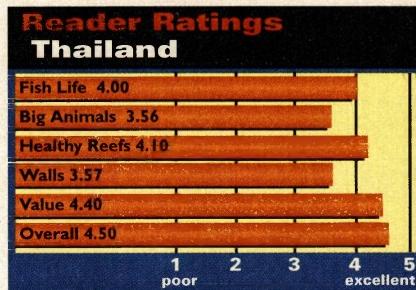
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► **VISIBILITY:** Excellent; in the 100- to 150-foot range except where runoff from rivers empties into the ocean.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** The incoming tide attracts little fish, big fish, sharks and divers to Palau's signature dive, **Blue Corner**. At night, a galaxy of flashlightfish illuminate Marigondon Cave off the Philippines' Mactan Island. In 1883, the volcano known as Krakatau erupted, killing 36,000 people. Today, you can dive the rock tunnels of the collapsed caldera off Java.

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#### PITOBY WATER SPORTS/DIVE KUPANG

(800) 566-2585, (415) 731-2560 • e-mail: [maluku@maluku.com](mailto:maluku@maluku.com) • internet: <http://www.maluku.com> • Land-based operator diving areas around Alor for advanced divers. Caters to advanced divers. Best package: 5 days diving, airfare to Kupang-Alor, transfers, 2 nights accommodations at Kupang, meals included on dive days, \$1,350.

#### Kiribati

##### DIVE KIRIBATI

CHRISTMAS ISLAND • (800) 245-1950, (412) 935-1577 • internet: <http://www.netilus.com> • Dives Christmas Island. Only operation in area. Booking office: Frontiers. Best package: 7-day all-inclusive package, \$2,295.

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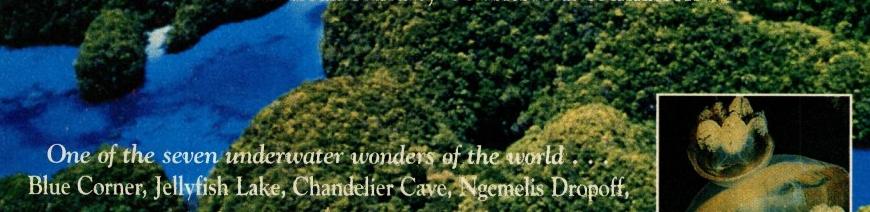
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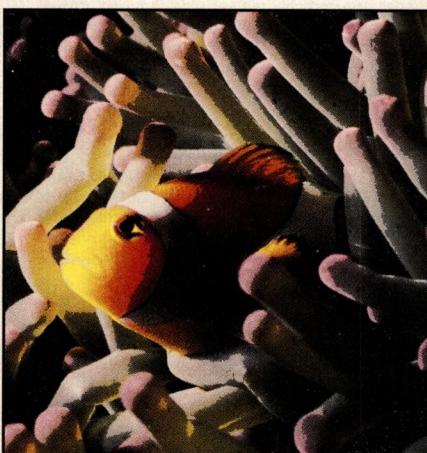
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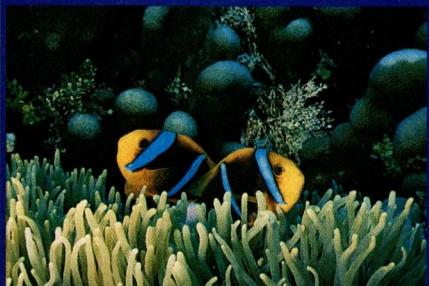
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# FISH 'N FINNS

PALAU, MICRONESIA

**Dive Package Special**  
**\$ 130 pp/dbl occ/night**

Includes 2 tank dives, room & tax, airport transfers, breakfast, lunch. **Unlimited dive packages now available! Call Now!**

## YOU DON'T HAVE TO DREAM ABOUT DIVING IN PALAU.

This is your dive trip of a lifetime. You work hard for your money, so why take chances? Dive with Palau's foremost dive operation. Our friendly, experienced guides are the best in the business and our fleet of 26' dive boats will speed you to the best dive sites in the world! Fish 'N Fins and the Marina Hotel are made for divers and offers the best value in Palau! So what are you waiting for?



**FISH 'N FINNS • PALAU, MICRONESIA**  
011-680-488-2637 or fax 011-680-488-1725

CIRCLE NO. 83 ON READER SERVICE CARD

**Poseidon  
Ventures  
Tours**  
DIVING TOUR SPECIALISTS

**Poseidon Ventures Tours 800-854-9334**

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*Experience the "New"*

# S.S. Thorfinn

AND DIVE THE  
**"SHIPWRECK CITY"  
OF TRUK LAGOON**  
(MAX 6 DIVERS PER WRECK)

11 Luxurious Staterooms with vanities & TV/VCR.  
8 cabins feature private baths.

Relax in our hot tub while enjoying a cool drink & snack after each dive.

Separate Dining Room offers restaurant style sit down service for 24 guests.

Nearly \$1 million US was spent refitting Micronesia's largest live-aboard dive boat.

Spacious 24x36 main salon has a full bar, ocean aquarium & big screen TV/VCR.

**CONTACT**

**SEAWARD HOLIDAYS MICRONESIA**  
P.O. BOX DX, MOEN  
TRUK STATE, FSM 96942  
OFFICE/FAX 011-691-330-4253  
SHIP 011-691-330-4302

CIRCLE NO. 90 ON READER SERVICE CARD

# MICRONESIA

## Micronesian immersion:

(noun)  
 1. the act of plunging into Micronesia's pristine waters where the action is electric, the wild life remains wild, wrecked ships become grand reefs and tiny organisms create unimaginable colors.  
 2. a preoccupation with Micronesia's mural of brilliant sunsets, untamed landscape, open-hearted people and layers of history within its legends, traditional houses, ancient dances, massive ruins and remnants from wars past.



Dive and explore  
Magnificent Micronesia!

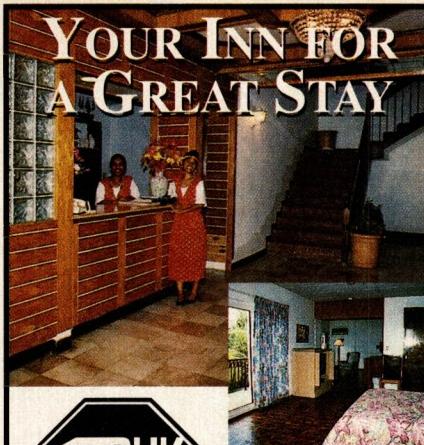


**PACTOURS**

**800-245-4129**

Tel (671) 649-3221 Fax (671) 649-4221  
E-MAIL: PACTOURS@KUENTOS.GUAM.NET

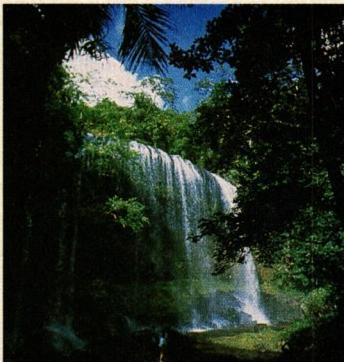
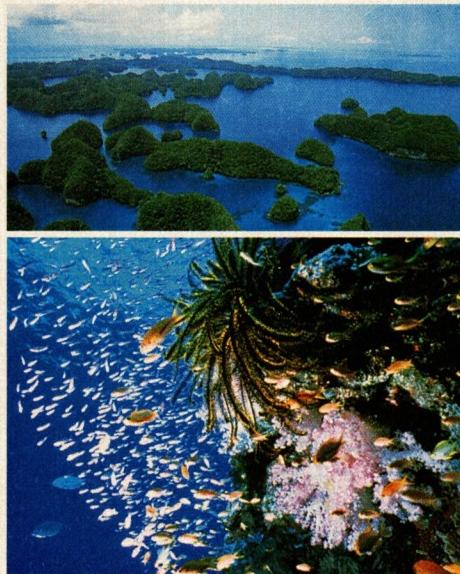
CIRCLE NO. 84 ON READER SERVICE CARD



The Truk Stop Hotel is an owner-operated hotel located right on Truk Lagoon. The 23 guest rooms include standard rooms, deluxe oceanfront rooms, executive and presidential suites. Amenities include air-conditioning, private bathroom, refrigerator, telephone and color cable TV. The Truk Stop is within easy walking distance of shopping and dive facilities and the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant is now open.

**TRUK STOP HOTEL**  
**011-691-330-4232**  
**Fax: 011-691-330-2286**

CIRCLE NO. 95 ON READER SERVICE CARD



## PALAU

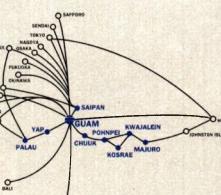
Acclaimed as one of the seven wonders of the underwater world, Palau offers a range of diversified diving experiences not duplicated anywhere else.

The profuse, unspoilt reefs surrounding the world famous "Rock Islands" offer a wealth of marine life, coral formations, wrecks and legendary dive sites.

Experience Palau with Continental Micronesia.  
Call toll free for flight information and tour information

**1-800-900-7657**

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**Continental  
Micronesia**

*Fly with the warmth of Paradise*

## Pacific

tion, (011) 603-719-6881. Best package: 6 dive trips with equipment, RM600; 6 trips without, RM400.

### BORNEO DIVERS AND SEA SPORTS

**SIPADAN • (011) 6088-222226 • e-mail: bdivers@po.jaring.my • Internet: http://www.jaring.my/bdivers** • Dives Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Sipadan Island and various wrecks off Labuan Island.

### LAYANG LAYANG ISLAND RESORT

**(011) 603-2433166 • e-mail: layang@pop.jaring.my •** Dives the Borneo Banks. Offers deep-water drop-offs, 150-foot visibility and schooling hammerheads. Booking office: Vacation Land, (800) 245-0050. Best package: 6-day, all-inclusive dive package, \$2,300.

### PULAU SIPADAN RESORT & TOURS

**SIPADAN • (011) 6089-765200 •** Dives Sipadan Island. Booking offices: Boulder Scuba Tours, (303) 449-8617; Creative Adventure Club, (714) 545-5888; See & Sea Travel; Village Travel Inc., (205) 871-6114. Best package: 6 days, 5 nights, equipment, 3 boat dives per day, 3 meals per day, unlimited shore diving, \$900 per diver.

### SIPADAN DIVE CENTRE

**SIPADAN • (011) 6088-240584 •** Dives Sipadan Island. Offers competitive diving services and facilities. Best package: transfers, accommodations, food and beverages, 3 boat dives per day, unlimited shore diving, RM1,500.

### SIPADAN-MABUL RESORT

**(011) 6088-230006 •** Dives Sipadan, Mabul and Kapalai Islands. Offers exclusive diving services and excellent sites for macro photography. Booking office: Deep Discoveries, (403) 389-4408.

### Marshall Islands

#### MARSHALLS DIVE ADVENTURES

**MAJURO • (011) 692-625-3119 •** Dives reefs, pinnacles, wrecks, walls and animal encounter dives of Majuro, Arno and Mili Atolls. Caters to small groups. Booking office: Cen-Pac Dive Ex.

### Marianas Islands

#### AAA WHITE DRAGON DIVERS

**GUAM • (011) 671-646-3483 •** Dives Guam, Yap, Truk and Palau. Offers nitrox, tri-mix, underwater weddings and multilingual diving instruction.

#### BLUE SEA SPORTS

**SAIPAN • (011) 670-234-7903 •** Dives Saipan and Tinian.

#### DIVE ROTA

**ROTA • (011) 670-532-3377 •** Dives Coral Gardens, Pearlman Tunnel, Harnom Drop-off and various wrecks. Offers small group dives. Booking offices: Trip-N-Tour Micronesia; Pac Tours, (800) 245-4129.

#### GUAM TROPICAL DIVE STATION

**GUAM • (011) 671-477-2774 •** Dives sites throughout Guam including Blue Hole, Double Reef and Cocos Island. PADI 5-star facility, retail, repair and rental, offers instruction, shore diving. Booking office: First Class Travel, (011) 671-472-4337. Best package: day of boat diving, transfers, tanks, lunch, 2 dives, \$95.

#### MICRONESIAN DIVERS ASSOCIATION

**GUAM • (011) 671-472-6321 • e-mail: mda@ite.net •** Dives Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan, Truk Lagoon, Pohnpei, Palau, Yap and Kosrae. 27 instructors, including 2 PADI course directors on staff, 3 boats that handle 25 two-tank divers, self-service rental. Hotel and diving packages from \$99 to \$150 a day.

#### PARADISE DIVING CENTER

**GUAM • (011) 671-477-1600 •** Dives Guam, Palau, Yap, Truk and Pohnpei. Offers technical diving instruction, nitrox equipment and penetration wreck diving.

### Micronesia

#### DIVE CAROLINE

**KOSRAE • (011) 691-370-3339 •** Dives Sandy Beach Point, Shark Island and various walls and wrecks. Offers a knowledgeable staff and professional diving services. Booking offices: Travel House, (011) 6174-22029; Trip-N-Tour Micronesia. Best package: 5 nights, 4 days of diving with lunch, \$550.

#### IET EHU/DIVE POHNPEI

**POHNPEI • (011) 691-320-2959 •** Dives sites around Pohnpei, including dives with mantas and sharks. Offers local experience, personal service. Booking office: Trip-N-Tour Micronesia. Call for hotel/dive packages.

**PHOENIX MARINE SPORTS CLUB**

**KOSRAE • (011) 691-370-3100** • Dives various local walls, drop-offs, wrecks and holes. Offers individual attention and custom dive packages.

**SLEEPING LADY DIVERS**

**KOSRAE • (011) 691-370-DIVE • e-mail: 70640.3362@compuserve.com** • Dives the fringing coral reef off Kosrae. Offers small, custom trips, instruction and handicapped-accessible services. Booking offices: Island Adventures; Blue Water Travel, (800) 481-3483; Cen-Pac Dive Ex. Best package: 10 days, 9 nights "super-saver," \$577.50.

**VILLAGE TOURS AND DIVE SERVICE**

**POHNPEI • (011) 691-320-2797** • Dives all sites in Pohnpei. Emphasis on marine ecology, local knowledge. Best package: 4 nights, 5 days, meals included, \$540 per person.

**Palau****FISH N' FINS**

**(011) 680-488-2637** • Dives Blue Corner, Blue Hole, Big Drop-off, wrecks and drift dives. 20 years experience on Palau. Offers personal, experienced staff, custom dives and night diving. Booking office: Poseidon Venture Tours. Best package: 2-tank dive, 2 meals, accommodations and transfers.

**PALAU DIVING CENTER/CARP ISLAND RESORT**

**(800) 359-0747, (011) 680-488-2978** • Dives Blue Corner, Big Drop-off, German Channel and other spots in Koror and Ulong. Offers professional, safe and experienced diving services. Booking office: Dive Safaris. Dive packages vary depending on season.

**PALAU PACIFIC RESORT/SPLASH**

**(011) 680-488-2600** • Dives Blue Corner and the Ulong Channel. Offers PADI 5-star diving services with photo facilities and equipment repair. Booking offices: Tropical Adventures Travel; Adventure Express; Continental Micronesia. Dive packages vary.

**SAM'S DIVE TOURS**

**(800) 794-9RNR, (011) 680-488-1062** • Dives everywhere in Palau. Offers personalized service, quality prices and 8 divers max. per boat. Booking office: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel. Best package: \$130 per day.

**Papua New Guinea****NIUGINI DIVING ADVENTURES**

**(310) 785-0370** • Dives Papua New Guinea, Bismarck Sea, Solomon Sea, Coral Sea and the Trobriand Islands. Offers complete land arrangements and local sightseeing and land-based and live-aboard diving services. Booking offices: Adventure Express, Tropical Adventures Travel.

**TRANS NIUGINI TOURS**

**MOUNT HAGEN • (800) 521-7242, (011) 675-521438 • e-mail: 100250.3337@compuserve.com** • Dives Papua New Guinea. Beachfront accommodations on the northern coast of Papua New Guinea. Booking offices: Adventure Express, See & Sea Travel, Tropical Adventures. Best package: 7 days, 6 nights, includes accommodations (twin share), dives, meals, transfers, all the coconuts you can eat, \$1,158.

**Philippines****EL NIDO DIVERS**

**(011) 632-810-3611** • Offers over 25 dive sites within El Nido Marine Sanctuary in Palawan. Offers a unique diving experience within a protected marine sanctuary and a professional, service-oriented staff. Booking offices: Reef & Rainforest Worldwide Adventure Travel; Rothschild Dive Safaris; Voyager Aquanauts, (800) 461-2028. Best package: from \$190 per person, per day.

**TRISTRAR SEA VENTURES CORP.**

**(011) 632-816-7088** • Dives Batangas, Mindoro, Coron, Busanga, Sulu Sea and Cebu. Offers professional and experienced diving services. Dive packages vary: 2 nights, 2 days, \$200; 6 nights, 7 days, \$1,540.

**WHITETIP DIVERS**

**(011) 632-526-2628 • e-mail: whitetip@mnl.sequel.net • internet: http://www.jake.com/DIVE/locker.html** • Dives sites throughout the Philippines. Largest dive network in the Philippines, resort-based, safaris and live-aboard island hopping. Booking office: Sure Dive UK, (011) 441-704-573714. Best package: 2 dives, accommodations, meals, \$65 per day.

**Solomon Islands****ADVENTURE SPORTS**

**GIZO • (800) 886-7321, (011) 677-60253 • internet: http://www.netilus.com/DiveDiscovery** • Dives west-

ern province and the Solomon Islands. Offers WWII wreck dives featuring three aircraft and one 7,000-ton Japanese transport, plus reef and wall dives. Booking office: Dive Discovery. Best package: \$120 per day.

**DIVE SOLOMONS**

**GIZO: (011) 677-60199 • HONIARA: (011) 677-21205** • Honiara: Dives Iron Bottom Sound, Guadalcanal, and the Florida Islands; Gizo: Dives Gizo Island, Western Province, and Morovo Lagoon. Experienced team of local and international divers. Booking offices: PADI Travel Network, Dive Discovery, Sportours, Landfall Productions. Deep Wreck Dive Package: experienced divers only, 2 tanks per dive, transfers, wreck guide, tours, \$56.

**ISLAND DIVE SERVICES LTD.**

**HONIARA • (011) 677-22103** • Dives Guadalcanal and Florida Islands. Offers nitrox fills, SSI/IANTD training facilities, technical diving and tri-mix. Booking offices: Adventure Express, Air Promotion Systems, See & Sea Travel. Dive package: tanks and weights, transfer to site, guide services, \$35.

**SOLOMON SEA DIVERS**

**WESTERN PROVINCE • (800) 886-7221, (011) 677-61224 • e-mail: 102442.3320@compuserve.com • internet: http://www.netilus.com/DiveDiscovery** • Dives the Roviana Lagoon. DAN oxygen kits and VHF on every boat, excellent shark and big fish action, PADI dive-master staff. Booking offices: Adventure Express, Dive Discovery, Island Dreams. Best package: 4 days diving, luxury accommodations, meals, excursions, \$820 per person.

**UEPI ISLAND RESORT**

**(800) 886-7321, (415) 256-8890 • e-mail: 102447.3320@compuserve.com • internet: http://www.netilus.com/DiveDiscovery** • Dives Uepi Island reefs. Booking office: Dive Discovery.

**Thailand****MARINA DIVING RESORT**

**PHUKET • (011) 6676-330272** • Dives Similan and Surin Islands. Offers a 5-star IDC Center, instruction, live-aboard and day trip options. Best package: 4 nights/3 days, \$389.

**Truk****BLUE LAGOON DIVE SHOP**

**(011) 691-330-2796** • Dives Truk Lagoon and various wrecks and reefs. Offers experienced dive staff and professional service. Booking office: Truk Travel Unlimited, (011) 691-330-2798.

**MICRONESIA AQUATICS**

**(011) 691-330-4096 • internet: http://www.padi.com** • Dives the reefs and wrecks of Truk Lagoon. Emphasis on environmental protection and historic preservation. Booking office: Continental Micronesia.

**SUNDANCE TOURS & DIVE SHOP**

**(800) 424-0065, (011) 691-330-4234** • Dives reefs and wrecks of Truk Lagoon. Pro 42 jet boat, fully integrated dive operation. Best package: \$145 per person, per day includes accommodations, 2 dives, guide, lunch, transfers.

**Vanuatu****TROPPO DIVE**

**(011) 678-36638** • Dives Million Dollar Point, Tutubu Point and various wrecks. Offers diving, accommodations, 2 restaurants, land tours and personalized service. Booking office: Sportours.

**Yap****Beyond THE REEF CHARTERS**

**(011) 691-350-3733** • Dives Mil Channel, Valley of the Rays, Yap Caverns and Sunrise Reef. Offers individual and group diving packages with a maximum of 5 divers per boat. Island-style lunches and barbecues on dive days. Booking offices: Continental Micronesia, Great Destinations, Poseidon Venture Tours, Tropical Adventures Travel. Best package: 1 night at private cottage at Pathways Hotel, 2 dives, lunch, tours, \$167.25 per person, dbl. occ.

**NATURE'S WAY**

**(011) 691-350-2542, (011) 691-350-3407** • Dives sites throughout Yap. Offers personal service, emphasis on marine ecology.

**THE PATHWAYS HOTEL**

**(011) 691-350-3310** • Dives Mil Channel, Manta Ridge, Gilman Wall, Yap Caverns, Magic Kingdom and Cabbage Patch. Caters to small groups, environmentally sensitive dive tours, offers personal service. Booking offices: Great

Destinations, Island Adventures, Reef and Rainforest.

**YAP DIVERS**

**(011) 691-350-2300 • e-mail: 103322.2325@compuserve.com** • Dives Mil Channel, Lionfish Wall and Yap Caverns. Offers professional dive resort, located on lagoon, 5 dive boats. Best package: \$135 per person, per day without meals.

**LIVE-ABOARDS****Indonesia****M/V BARUNA ADVENTURER, PINDITO, SONGLINE CRUISES****Malaysia****SPIRIT OF BORNEO****Palau****OCEAN HUNTER, PALAU AGGRESSOR II, PETER HUGHES/SUN DANCER****Papua New Guinea****M/V CHERTAN, FEBRINA, GOLDEN DAWN, M/V TELITA, M/V TIATA****Philippines****PCI HOLIDAY CRUISES/M/Y NAUTIKA****Solomon Islands****M/V BILIKIKI, BLUE LAGOON CRUISES S.I. LTD., M/V SOLOMON SEA, M/V SPIRIT OF SOLOMONS****Thailand****ANDAMAN EXPLORER, CRESCENT, FANTASEA DIVERS/M/V FANTASEA, GAEA, PIDC DIVERS, SAI MAI, SERAPH, WANDERLUST****Truk****SS THORFINN, TRUK AGGRESSOR II****Vietnam****SONG SAI GON**

## PUERTO RICO

For some reason, Puerto Rico has yet to be discovered by the majority of American divers. The good news for you is that there's no logical reason for this. Puerto Rico offers easy access: dozens of daily flights from major cities. It offers culture: nonstop nightlife, excellent restaurants and the fortress of El Morro in old San Juan. And it offers topside diversity: from the El Yunque rain forest in the east to the cave-riddled karst of the northwest to the dry, rolling hills in the southwest.

And better yet, it offers world-class diving. Off San Juan, coral gardens reach toward the neighboring U.S. Virgin Islands. On the southwest side of the island, the Parguera Wall stretches 20 miles and drops precipitously from an average depth of 65 feet to more than 600 feet. And a collection of offshore islands—including Mona Island, known as "the Galapagos of the Caribbean"—offers acres of pristine reefs.

► **WEATHER:** Fairly stable all year, with an average temperature of 76F. Rainfall varies by location.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** From a low of 77F in winter to a high of 84F in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Nearshore, visibility averages 60 to 75 feet. Offshore, visibility improves, reaching triple digits in some places.

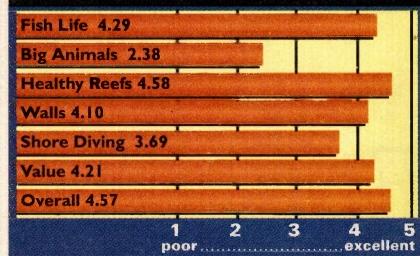
► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Black Wall,

## Puerto Rico



where huge sea fans and bushy black coral trees hang off the reef face, is part of the Parguera Wall. Palominitos, off Fajardo on the east end, attracts spotted eagle rays and hawksbill turtles. On Vieques Island, don't miss phosphorescent Mosquito Bay, where every night dive becomes an underwater fireworks show.

### Reader Ratings Puerto Rico



### PUERTO RICO DIVE OPERATORS

#### AQUATICA UNDERWATER ADVENTURES

**RAMEY, AGUADILLA** • (800) 981-8984, (787) 890-6071 • Dives Desecheo Island, west coast double walls and B-29 bomber WWII-era wreck. Emphasis on service, personal attention. Oldest operation on Desecheo Island. Best package: 3 nights, 4 days at the Mayaguez Holiday Inn & Tropical Casino, 6 dives, breakfast, lunch on board, \$325.

#### BOQUERON DIVE SHOP

**BOQUERON** • (809) 851-2155 • e-mail: [cbscella@cogui.net](mailto:cbscella@cogui.net) • Dives Parguera Wall, Pargo Wall, pinnacles, trenches, Evil Wall, Desecheo, El Negro Key, Las Pozas and Mona Island. Discover scuba diving courses, night diving and PADI certification. Booking office: Harrier Tours, (407) 322-4981. Best package: 6 nights at Casablanca Hotel, 4 days of 2-tank dives, \$595.

#### CALYPSO DIVERS

**LA PARGUERA** • (800) 866-5816, (809) 899-6212 • Internet: <http://www.padi.com> • Dives La Parguera and sites around the island. PADI 5-star IDC, emphasis on diver education.

#### CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF AQUATICS

**SAN JUAN** • (809) 728-6606 • Dives San Juan and Fajardo. Offers half-day sightseeing and snorkeling trips.

#### CARIBE AQUATIC ADVENTURES

**SAN JUAN** • (787) 724-1882, (787) 729-2929, EXT. 240 • Dives San Juan and Fajardo. Beach reef dives 4 times daily, escort guides, caters to small groups. Best package: 8 days, 7 nights, 4 dives, not including meals, \$420 per person, dbl. occ.

#### CORAL HEAD DIVERS

**HUMACAO** • (800) 635-4529, (809) 850-7208 • Dives Puerto Rico's southeast coast. Offers 2-tank dives daily and computer diving. Booking office: Palmas del Mar, (800) 725-6270.

#### CULEBRA DIVE SHOP

**CULEBRA** • (809) 742-3555 • Dives western side of

Culebra. Offers certifications and specialties, small groups, personal service.

#### DESECHEO DIVE SHOP

**RINCON** • (809) 823-0390 • Dives Candyland, Desecheo Island. Closest dive shop in Puerto Rico to Desecheo Island.

#### DIVE COPAMARINA AT COPAMARINA BEACH RESORT

**GUANICA** • (800) 468-

4553, (809) 821-6009 • Dives Fallen Rock, Ballenas Wall, Front Porch and Black Canyon. Dives 7 days a week, wall 15 minutes from dock, 6 divers max. Best package: 3 nights, 6 dives, \$399 to \$431.

#### THE DIVE SHOP

**MAYAGUEZ** • (809) 833-6455 • Dives Desecheo Island, Mayaguez, Cabo Rojo and Rincon. Located close to dive sites. Dives start at \$50. New packages available soon.

#### DORADO MARINE CENTER

**DORADO** • (809) 796-7323, (809) 796-4645 • Dives Culebra, Vieques, Fajardo. Offers shore and night diving, certifications.

#### HUMACAO DIVER SERVICE CENTER

**HUMACAO** • (809) 852-4530 • Dives Palmas del Mar, Vieques, Culebra, Icacos.

#### MUNDO SUBMARINO

**CAROLINA** • (809) 791-5764 • Dives Puerto Rico's east, south and west coasts and Culebra and Vieques Islands. Offers experienced and professional diving services. Best package: 2 boat dives, transportation, light lunch, refreshments and equipment, \$110.

#### OCEAN SCUBA SHOP

**YAUCO** • (787) 856-8206 • Dives Guanica, Puerto Rico. All dive sites within 25 minutes.

#### PALOMINO ISLAND DIVERS INC.

**FAJARDO** • (809) 863-1000, EXT. 7917 • Dives the "Spanish Virgin Islands" off the northeastern coast of Puerto Rico, Culebra. Located at resort, emphasis on customer service. Booking office: Puerto Rico Tourism Company. Best package: 4 days/3 nights, including accommodations and diving, \$750 to \$1,050.

#### PARADISE SCUBA AND SNORKELING CENTER

**LA PARGUERA, LAJAS** • (809) 899-7611 • e-mail: [cbscella@cogui.net](mailto:cbscella@cogui.net) • Dives Parguera, Pargo Wall, Pinnacles, Trenches, Cayo Enrique, Las Pozas and Mona Island. Snorkeling trips through mangrove canals in the crystal waters of La Parguera, resort courses, five-day certifications. Booking office: Harrier Tours, (407) 322-4981. Best package: 6 nights at Hotel Casablanca, 4 days of 2-tank dives, \$595 per person.

#### PARGUERA DIVERS

**LAJAS** • (809) 899-4015, EXT. 131 • Dives La Parguera, Southwest Wall, Black Wall, Fallen Rock, Hole in the Wall, the Chimney, Aquarium and Barracuda City. 20 years experience, small groups only, personalized service. Booking offices: Caribbean Adventures, Rothschild Travel. Best package: 3 nights at Posada Portamar, 2 days of diving (4 dives), tanks and weights, breakfast buffet and tax, \$250 per person, dbl. occ.

#### SEA VENTURES PRO DIVE CENTER

**FAJARDO** • (800) 739-3483, (809) 863-DIVE • Dives the northeast coast of Puerto Rico. PADI 5-star dive center. Booking office: PADI Travel Network.

#### SOUTH WEST SCUBA

**BOQUERON** • (809) 851-2885 • Dives Mona Island, Desecheo, Las Coronas, Margarita and Tourmaline. Offers video, shore and boat dives, equipment sales and rental, personalized service, snorkeling trips, babysitting services.

#### TANKS A LOT

**RINCON** • (809) 823-6301 • Dives Desecheo, reefs off Rincon, Mona. Offers certifications, specialties, personalized service, caters to small groups.

### LIVE-ABOARD

#### SAN ANTONIO VIKING STARSHIP

## SOUTH AMERICA/ BRAZIL

With 4,600 miles of coastline, Brazil offers as much diving diversity as you'd expect in a country that's larger than all other South American nations combined. And in the world's eighth-largest economy, Brazil's youthful population, 70 percent of whom live by the sea, have made scuba diving one of the fastest growing sports in the land of Carnival and bodies beautiful.

► **WEATHER:** Tropical, except in the extreme southern states.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** A warm 80F in Fernando de Noronha and Recife in the north; expect thermoclines to 60F in the south around Angra dos Reis.

► **VISIBILITY:** Dependable 70 to 100 feet in Noronha. Elsewhere, vis varies from 35 to 100 feet, according to distance from shore and currents.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Linger outside the off-limits Bay of Dolphins in Noronha and watch an army of 600 spinner dolphins pass under you. Sit on the bottom at Laje dos Dois Irmaos and watch 30 to 40 juvenile sharks swim around you in this unique breeding area. Shine your light on the steamship *de Baixo* off Recife and watch it burst into a ball of orange flame crawling with hundreds—yes, hundreds—of lobsters.

### BRAZIL DIVE OPERATORS

#### AGUAS CLARAS

**FERNANDO DE NORONHA** • (011) 5581-6191152 • Dives Fernando de Noronha Marine Park. SSI, PDIC, PADI instruction, video services, full equipment rental. Best package: 2-tank dive, \$65.

#### AQUAMASTER DIVING CENTER

**PRAIA DE ENSENADA, ANGRA DOS REIS** • (011) 5524-365-2416, (011) 5521-205-7070 (RIO OFFICE) • Dives Ilha Grande and Ilha de Jorge Góes, 100 km south of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's oldest diving center, emphasis on education. Booking office: Dive Tours. Best package: 2-tank dive, all refreshments, lunch, \$60.

#### ATLANTIS DIVERS

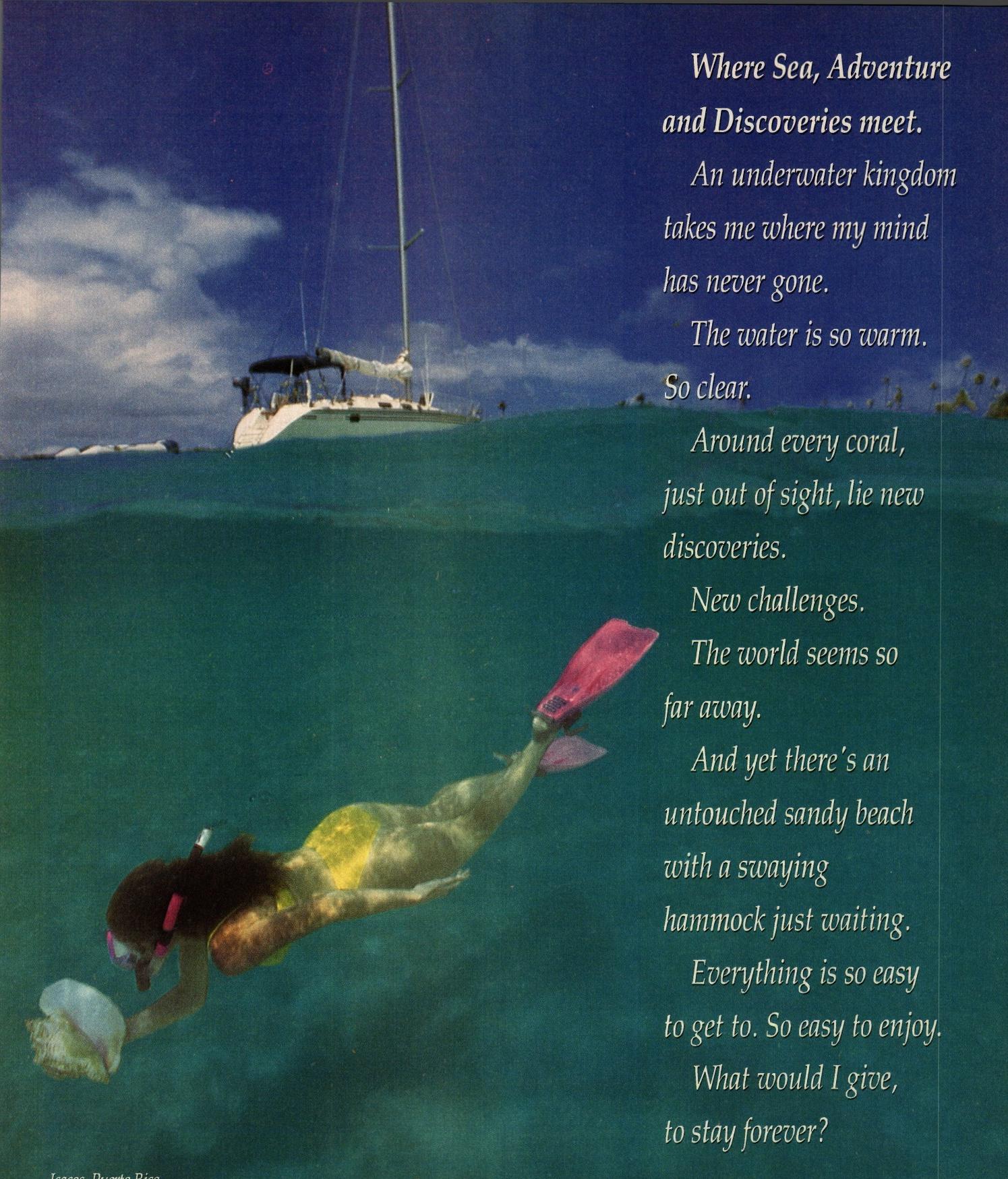
**FERNANDO DE NORONHA** • (011) 5581-6191371 • Dives Fernando de Noronha Marine Park. Boats and operation geared to intermediate and advanced divers, instruction in English, full equipment rental. Booking office: Dive Tours. Best package: 2-tank dive, \$45.

#### DEEP BLUE SCUBA

**RIO DE JANEIRO** • (011) 5521-5531680 • Dives 10 sites off Rio de Janeiro, Abrolhos Marine Park and Angra dos Reis (365 islands). Offers professional and personalized service and high-quality rental gear. Booking office: Dive Travel, (011) 5511-8446400. Best package: 2 nights, 2 all-day boat dives (4 tanks), continental breakfast buffet, lodging, BC, regulator, tanks and weights, \$200 per person, dbl. occ.

#### EXPEDIÇÃO ATLÂNTICO

**RECIFE** • (011) 5581-2270458 • Dives wrecks of Recife, off northeast coast of Brazil. Offers the most experienced tours of the 14-plus wrecks off the coast. Booking offices: Dive Tours; Karitas Turismo (Brazil), (011) 5581-3411796. Best package: 3 nights and 2 days of 2-tank diving in Recife, accommodations and airfare to Fernando de Noronha, \$1,360.



*Where Sea, Adventure  
and Discoveries meet.*

*An underwater kingdom  
takes me where my mind  
has never gone.*

*The water is so warm.  
So clear.*

*Around every coral,  
just out of sight, lie new  
discoveries.*

*New challenges.  
The world seems so  
far away.*

*And yet there's an  
untouched sandy beach  
with a swaying  
hammock just waiting.*

*Everything is so easy  
to get to. So easy to enjoy.*

*What would I give,  
to stay forever?*

Icacos, Puerto Rico.

*Discover what a vacation was always meant to be.*  
**PUERTO RICO**  
*For additional information, call your travel agent or: 1-800-866-7827*  
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*Discover the Continent of Puerto Rico.  
Right here in the U.S.A.  
Only Puerto Rico puts so many vacation  
experiences within your reach.*

### Venezuela



## SOUTH AMERICA/ VENEZUELA

Dive atlas update: Please add the country that claims more Caribbean coastline and islands than any other—Venezuela. Its 1,750-

mile-long north coast fronts the Caribbean Sea like a white ribbon, and its 72 major islands stretch from Bonaire in the west to Trinidad and Tobago in the east. Along the way are several major diving areas as different from one another as the samba is from a barn dance.

► **WEATHER:** Between 75F and 80F, except in summer when they nudge 100F and in winter when they fall to the mid-50Fs.

► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** In Los Roques, expect 80F in summer and mid-70Fs in winter. Los Testigos and Los Frailes temps stay in mid-70Fs even in summer.

► **VISIBILITY:** Varies from an eye-popping 200 feet in Los Roques, to a hazy 30 to 50 feet in the nutrient-rich waters of Los Testigos.

► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Los Testigos' Cumberland Bank is a shallow feeding ground for schools of sharks, barracudas and stingrays. The infestation of groupers at Los Roque's Piedra de Guasa is testimony to the marine park's effectiveness. At Los Frailes' Cominoto, schools of balloonfish hide in gorgonia trees.

### VENEZUELA DIVE OPERATORS

#### OCTOPUS

• Dives Bird Rock, Mucura Coral Reef, Los Frailes, Los Roques, La Blanquilla, Los Testigos and Los Hermanos. Booking office: Dive Tours. Dive packages vary.

### LIVE-ABOARDS

**Galapagos:** BELUGA, GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR I, GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR II, LAMMER LAW, M/S SEA CLOUD, M/Y CORAL STAR I, MISTRAL  
**Malpelo:** CORAL STAR, INZAN TIGER  
**Venezuela:** ANTARES III, LOS ROQUES NATIONAL PARK/AEREOTUY

## TURKS & CAICOS

Half-wild donkeys roam freely among tourists and the Bermuda-style buildings in Grand Turk, the capital city of the Turks & Caicos. Topside and below, divers like the untamed nature of this British Commonwealth Colony. From February to March, humpback whales migrate through the deep ocean passages and divers can spot manta rays, sharks and dolphins year-round. Equally wild are the deep walls accessible from the major dive islands.

# Viva Venezuela

### LOS ROQUES

Discover the best-kept diving secret in the Caribbean. Los Roques, Venezuela's national marine park, now offers a world-class luxury live-aboard, the Antares III. The 76-foot vessel accommodates 14 divers and offers countless virgin dive sites during week-long stays. For the laid-back land-lover, Las Posadas still offers comfortable native accommodations based on El Gran Roque. Air transfers from Caracas, land and live-aboard accommodations, and all diving is operated by Aereotuy.

7 NIGHTS \$1495

### MARGARITA

Discover what Europeans have known for years, Margarita offers more of everything for less. From world-class, five-star luxury resorts, to overnight adventure dive safaris to the outer islands of Los Testigos and La Blanquilla via safe, comfortable dive boats, you get more dive vacation for your dollar. Octopus, Margarita's best dive and land tour operator, handles all the arrangements.

Dive Tours represents both Aereotuy and Octopus in North America, offering combination packages with discount airfare direct to Margarita.



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Fax: 713-680-2306

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"The Best Dive Vacation Value Around"

Includes Oceanfront or Mountainview Accommodations & daily 2 tank dive at the best dive site in Oahu. (which happens to be right out front)

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Sunset sails on 42' catamaran  
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Open Water · Advanced Openwater · Rescue Certificate

\$5 ALL YOU CAN EAT MEALS

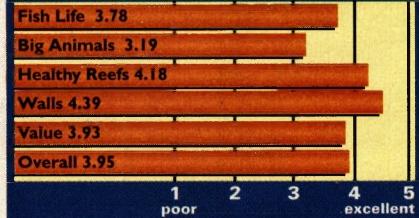
**Interested?**  
call 808-638-7838  
fax 808-638-7515

Browse <http://planet-hawaii.com/backpackers/>  
Backpacker's Vacation Inn & Plantation Village



Providenciales is the most developed of the eight inhabited islands, boasting a number of new hotels and a small casino. But you can still explore the wild side of the Turks & Caicos in the shallow spur-and-groove formations of Grace Bay, the deep wall of the Caicos Passage on Provo's Northwest Point and on day trips to the uninhabited islands of West Caicos and French Cay. On Grand Turk, where the wall is tantalizingly visible just 300 yards from shore, outboard skiffs wing divers to their favorite wall sites in a matter of minutes. Sparsely populated Salt Cay, with only one guesthouse, has its own unspoiled wall sites and day trips to the remote island of Great Sand Cay.

#### Reader Ratings Turks & Caicos



► **WEATHER:** Mild year-round, with average daytime temperatures ranging from a low of 75F in winter to 90F in summer.  
 ► **AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Around 80F in summer and a few degrees less in winter.  
 ► **VISIBILITY:** Variable, depending on the amount of plankton in the water, but there are plenty of days with 100 feet or more.  
 ► **THREE GREAT DIVES:** Provo's Chimney is a 30-foot vertical drop through a shaft formed by plate corals. Carry a light with you to Grand Turk's Black Forest to coax out the true colors of the five varieties of black coral. The massive anchors and chains of the *HMS Endymion*—accessible from Salt Cay—are scattered amid healthy coral slopes.

#### TURKS & CAICOS DIVE OPERATORS

**ART PICKERING'S PROVO TURTLE DIVERS**  
PROVIDENCIALES • (800) 833-1341, (809) 946-4232

## Dive the unspoiled Caribbean... *Dive Provo*

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*Wait until you see our walls...*

Be one of the first and few to dive the vertical walls of Northwest Point where sheer dropoffs begin at 50-60 feet! Diving here rivals the best anywhere in the Caribbean. Encounter giant sponges, colorful corals, sharks, dolphins, rays, barracuda, rare hawksbill turtles...and perhaps see a humpback whale!

Our unspoiled location is still one of the best kept secrets of the Caribbean. Experience miles of white beach and turquoise water. Enjoy our PADI 5-Star dive facility at the beautiful Turquoise Reef Resort & Casino. **DIVE PROVO**, only a little more than an hour jet flight from Miami.



**Turquoise Reef Hotel & Dive  
RESORT & CASINO**  
Packages start as  
low as \*\$414

one FREE afternoon or night dive  
for travel between

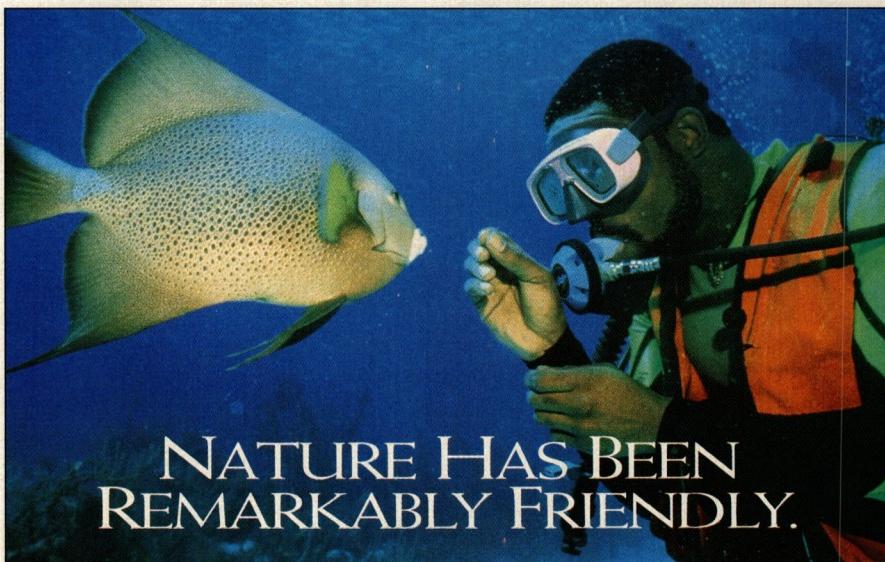
April 21 & September 30, 1996

for reservations call:

**800-234-7768 or 954-351-9771**

\*April 21, 1996 thru December 21, 1996, prices subject to change

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**NATURE HAS BEEN  
REMARKABLY FRIENDLY.**

Diving in the Turks & Caicos Islands has never been more inviting than now. Gentle warmth and friendly faces welcome you to unblemished coral reefs and bottomless walls, 230 miles of beaches and the clearest turquoise sea. Golf, a casino, intimate

inns and superb resorts exist in harmony with benevolent nature. Manta rays & migrating whales. Orchids & flamingos. Turks & Caicos, the undiscovered Caribbean just 75 minutes from Miami.

Call your travel agent or 1-800-241-0824 (U.S. and Canada).

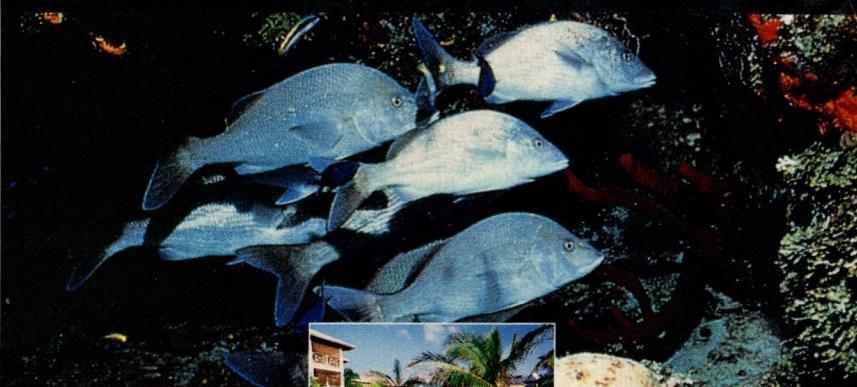
### TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

**BEAUTIFUL BY NATURE**

Providenciales • North Caicos • Grand Turk • Salt Cay • Pine Cay  
• Middle Caicos • South Caicos • Parrot Cay

CIRCLE NO. 105 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Discover why 2/3 of the world is covered with water.



Come to Ocean Club in the Turks & Caicos Islands and let Art Pickering, scuba pioneer, open your eyes to the virgin reefs beneath the turquoise waters of Providenciales.

Whether you're a novice or seasoned diver, Art Pickering's Provo Turtle Divers will deliver a dive to remember.

And because you'll eventually surface, there's



the Ocean Club. Bask in the sun on the white sand beach of Grace Bay. Relax in a deluxe suite with the

comforts of home. Enjoy tennis or your favorite watersports. Play golf at the adjacent Provo Golf Club. Test your luck at a nearby casino.

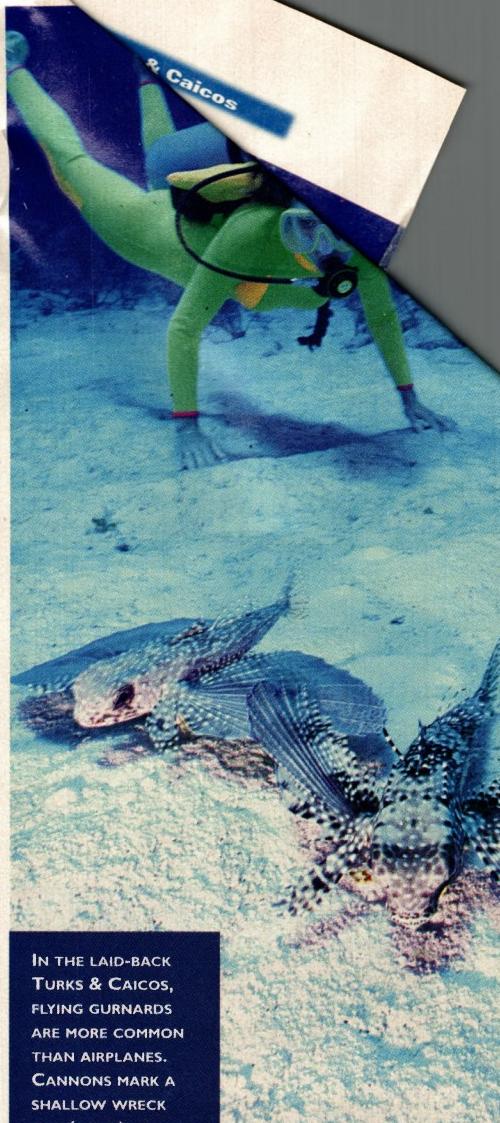


Call your Travel Agent or 1-800-457-8787. For Provo Turtle Divers call 1-800-833-1341. CIRCLE NO. 104 ON READER SERVICE CARD



Providenciales • Turks & Caicos Islands BWI

CIRCLE NO. 102 ON READER SERVICE CARD



IN THE LAID-BACK  
TURKS & CAICOS,  
FLYING GURNARDS  
ARE MORE COMMON  
THAN AIRPLANES.  
CANNONS MARK A  
SHALLOW WRECK  
SITE (INSET).

• Dives West Caicos, Northwest Point, Pine Cay, Grace Bay, French Cay and Southwest Reef. Offers professional diving services and was rated a top 5 day boat operator in RSD's 1996 Readers' Ratings. Booking offices: Go Diving; Go/Liberty, (201) 934-3500; Ocean Connections, PADI Travel Network; Poseidon Venture Tours; Travel Plan, (215) 483-8317. Best package: 5 nights, four 2-tank dives, airport transfers, tanks and weights, guide, boat, taxes, \$467 (summer rate), per person.

#### BLUE WATER DIVERS

**GRAND TURK • (809) 946-2432** • Dives Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Turks & Caicos Islands. Offers 15 years of experienced, professional local diving services, specializes in wall diving. Best package: 4 nights, 6 dives, \$346.50 per person, dbl. occ.

#### CAICOS ADVENTURES

**PROVIDENCIALES • (800) 513-5822, (809) 941-3346**

• Dives West Caicos and French Cay. Specializes in West Caicos sites, night dives, unchartered dive sites, flexible profiles. Booking office: USA Travel Network, (800) 513-5822. Best package: 8 days, 7 nights, 14 dives, \$730.

#### CLUB MED/TURKOISE

**PROVIDENCIALES • (800) CLUB-MED, (809) 946-5491**

• Dives Northwest Point, Grace Bay, Pine Cay, West Caicos. Offers resort course and open-water advanced instruction. All-inclusive resort. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Weekly dive package: 13 dives, equipment rental, \$125.

#### DIVE PROVO

**PROVIDENCIALES • (800) 234-7768, (809) 946-5029** • Dives Grace Bay, Pine Cay, Northwest Point,

## GRAND TURK TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

**SEA EYE to EYE!**  
Wall diving with your choice  
of accommodation...

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beach front hotels  
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All properties with  
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and tennis courts at Coral Reef.

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fax 946-2279

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## Turks Head Inn

Fine Grand Turk mansion built circa 1840. Modern comfort with TV/AC private bath and balconies overlooking the ocean.

**Call**  
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CIRCLE NO. 106 ON READER SERVICE CARD

West Caicos, French Cay. Located on 12 miles of sandy beach, Grace Bay. PADI 5-star facility, fast boat. Best package: 3 nights, 2 days of 2-tank dives, 2 afternoon or night dives, buffet breakfast daily, Paul Humann fish ID book, transfers, \$414 per person, dbl. occ.

**FLAMINGO DIVERS  
PROVIDENCIALES .**  
**(800) 204-9282, (809)**  
**946-4193 • Dives West**  
**Caicos, French Cay and**  
**Southwest Reef, North-**

greenery and flowering plants. Below water, the rock is decorated with murals of corals and filter feeders from encrusting sponges to sea fans. Steeped in a rich maritime history of pirates and shipping, the islands also feature a number of handsomely encrusted wrecks.

While St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix share a blend of American conveniences and island beauty, each has a different style and pace. St. Thomas, a popular cruise ship port, is home to

numerous duty-free shops and resorts catering to divers who like bargain-hunting as much as fish-watching. Divers and sailors seeking seclusion enjoy tiny St. John, where most of the island has been declared a national park. St. Croix is the island of choice for divers looking to max out their bottom time. It features the popular Frederiksted Pier, the wall of the Cane Bay Drop-off and the twin coral banks of Salt River Canyon.



west Point. Offers personalized diving with 2 instructors per boat. Best package: 6 nights, 5 days of diving, \$570.

**PORPOISE DIVERS  
SALT CAY • (800) 531-7996, (809) 946-6927**

• Dives Salt Cay and Grand Turk, Great Sand Cay. Whale watching, dives various wrecks, including the *HMS Endymion*, a 1790s wreck in 25 feet of water. Best package: 1 week, all

meals, 3 boat dives/day, accommodations, \$895 per person, dbl. occ.

#### SEA EYE DIVING

**GRAND TURK • (809) 946-1407** internet:  
<http://www.interlog.com/~reefnet/GTurk> • Dives the Grand Turk Wall. Offers full customized diving services, support and services for photographers, and E-6 processing. PADI and NAUI instruction. Booking offices: Go Diving, Scuba Voyages. Best package: 6 days, 12 dives, unlimited beach diving, \$810.50.

#### TURTLE INN DIVERS

**PROVIDENCIALES • (800) 359-3483, (809) 941-5389**

• Dives the Providenciales area.

#### LIVE-ABOARDS

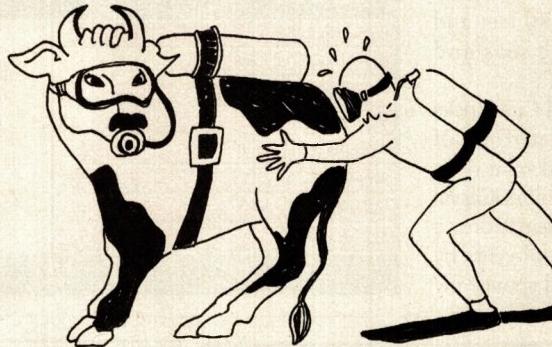
**AQUANAUT, PETER HUGHES/SEA DANCER, TURKS & CAICOS AGGRESSOR**

## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The three U.S. Virgin Islands are dabs of volcanic rock that rise steeply from the blue Atlantic water, carpeted with a mix of cactus, lush

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PACKAGE**

**6 NIGHTS/5 DAYS  
\$570**

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**DIVE THE BEST  
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- South Wall
- & More!

*The Best  
Uncharted  
Dive Sites*



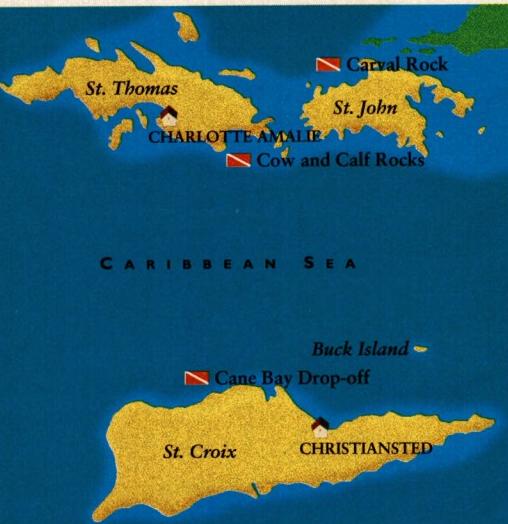
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Dive  
You  
Crazy!®*

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(809) 941-3346 · P.O. Box 47 · Providenciales, Turks & Caicos, BWI

CIRCLE NO. 98 ON READER SERVICE CARD



**► WEATHER:** Mild year-round, with average temperatures in the 80Fs.

**► AVERAGE WATER TEMP:** Around 80F in the summer and a few degrees less in winter.

**► VISIBILITY:** Varies between 80 feet and 120 feet, depending on the seas and amount of plankton.

**► THREE GREAT DIVES:** Cow and Calf Rocks off St. Thomas is a shallow labyrinth of swim-throughs, tunnels and undercuts open to divers of all skill levels. St. John's Carval Rock boasts dramatic rock formations, a variety of corals and occasional visits by pelagics. Soak up all the varied sponge life

you can identify on the nearshore wall of St. Croix's Cane Bay Drop-off.

### USVI's DIVE OPERATORS

#### ADMIRALTY DIVE CENTER

**ST. THOMAS** • (800) 524-7389, (809) 777-9802 • Dives St. Thomas and St. John. Offers personal diving services, fast boat and advanced dive locations.

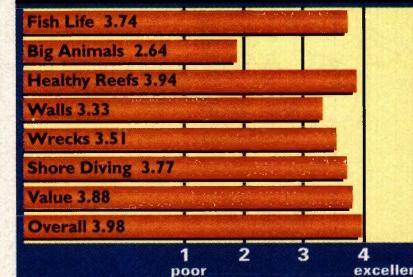
#### ANCHOR DIVE CENTER

**ST. CROIX** • (800) 532-3483, (809) 778-1522 • Dives "The Seven Wonders of St. Croix," Shark Shanty, West Wall Salt River, Anchor Wall Drift, Jimmy's Surpasse, East Wall Salt River and White Horse Reef. Offers 5-minute boat rides to dive sites, maximum 6 divers per boat, gear storage, 5-star PADI and IDC instruction and immediate return to docks after diving. Dive packages vary: 3-day package starts at \$165 per day.

#### AQUA ACTION DIVE CENTER

**ST. THOMAS** • (809) 775-6285 • Dives east end St. Thomas, Cow and Calf Rock, French Cap, Carval Rock. Caters to small groups only, customized trips, short boat

### Reader Ratings USVI's



rides. Best package: 7 days, 6 nights, 10 dives, \$720.

#### CANE BAY DIVE SHOP

**ST. CROIX** • (800) 338-3843, (809) 773-9913 • e-mail: 10364z.3220@compuserve.com • Internet: http://www.ecani.com • Dives the north side of St. Croix, Cane Bay, Twin Palms and various wrecks on the west side. Offers a wide variety of boat, wreck, cave, pier and shore dives. Best package: 5 nights, 6 days, \$550 per person, dbl. occ.

#### CHRIS SAWYER DIVING CENTER

**ST. THOMAS** • (809) 775-7320 • Dives the east end of St. Thomas, including all the cays north of St. John, RMS Rhone, General Rogers, Pelican Cay and Eagle Shoal. Offers 14 years of professional and personalized service with a perfect safety record.

#### CORAL DIVERS AT CORAL BAY WATERSPORTS

**ST. JOHN** • (809) 693-5938 • e-mail: AB3556@virgin.usvi.net • Dives Coral Bay. Offers Zen scuba.

#### CRUZ BAY WATERSPORTS CO.

**ST. JOHN** • (800) 835-7730, (809) 776-6234 • Dives the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean and Pillsbury Sound. Offers diving 365 days of the year, permanent staff of 18, two retail diving stores. 3 days, 6 dives, \$198.

#### CRUZAN DIVERS

**ST. CROIX** • (800) 352-0107, (809) 772-3701 • Dives the west end of St. Croix, south shore and Butler Bay wrecks. Dives lee side of the island, close to wrecks, Frederiksted Pier. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Best package: Best package: 3 nights, 4 days, diving, lodging, transfers, \$299.

#### DIVE EXPERIENCE

**ST. CROIX** • (800) 235-9047, (809) 773-3307 • Dives the north shore of St. Croix, mini walls. Offers safe, professional diving services, fish feeds, PADI 5-star IDC center. Booking office: Southerland Tours, (809) 773-9498. Best package: 6-tank dive package, 4 nights, including breakfast, \$375.

#### DIVE IN!

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It's easy to step right out of your (newly refurbished) room and onto the dive boat when you stay at the Hotel Caravelle on the historic Christian Harbor.

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ON  
ST. CROIX**

*"Friendliest staff  
this side  
of paradise."*

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Specializing in Personal Attention • Daily Scuba Tours • 8:30am Certified Dives  
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*Still Waters* is nestled on a mountain side, creating secluded privacy and breath-taking sunset views. The brand new, fully air conditioned, one bedroom home has a wrap around deck, fully equipped kitchen, and lounge jacuzzi to ease your body after a nice day of diving.

**SUMMER SPECIAL PACKAGE: \$700 pp/dbl occ**

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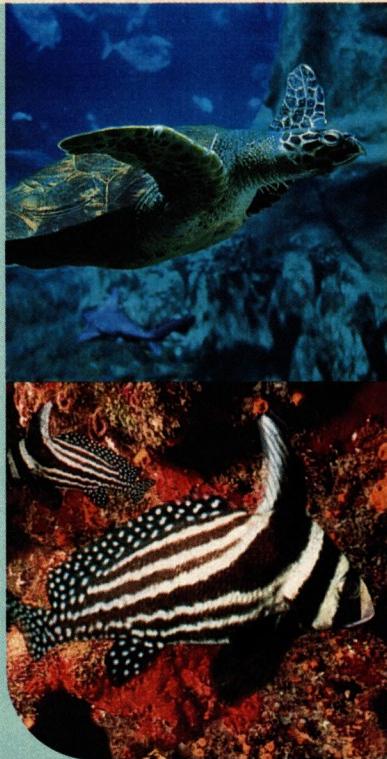
809-693-8999 • E-mail: Divelowkey@msn.com.

WHARFSIDE VILLAGE • P.O. BOX 716 • ST. JOHN • US VIRGIN ISLANDS • 00831

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**ANY FISH**  
**WHO'S ANYBODY**  
**IS HERE.**



Dive in the U.S. Virgin Islands and come face to face with the biggest names in marine biology. Parrot fish, triggerfish, angels, tangs, trumpet fish and gar, to name a few. Plus octopuses, turtles, sea horses, rays and on occasion, dolphins and even whales. As well as countless undersea gardens, reefs and wrecks. And with up to 100 ft. visibility, it's all easy to see. You'll also find no shortage of dive shops, run by qualified professionals who'll help make your stay with us unforgettable. And when you come up for air, you'll find our islands are as beautiful above the water as they are below.

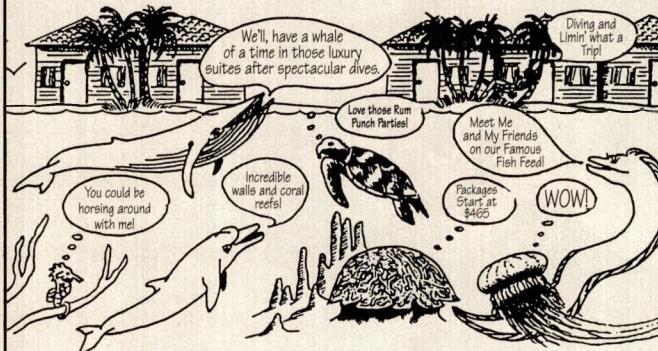
To find out how close and easy a great dive vacation can be, call your travel agent or 1-800-372-U.S.V.I; or contact <http://www.usvi.net/> for Internet access.

**THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
**ST. CROIX • ST. JOHN • ST. THOMAS**  
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3. Gentle Winds
4. Jimmy's Surprise
5. Northstar
6. Shark Shanty
7. West Wall Salt River

Only Dive Center in Salt River  
National Park and Ecological Preserve.  
5 Minute Boat Ride to Best Sites

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**ANCHOR  
DIVE  
CENTER**  
★ ★ ★ ★ IDC



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ON THE BEACH  
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CIRCLE NO. 107 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## USVIS

Rhone. Personal service, caters to small groups, emphasis on individual divers' needs. Booking office: Go Go Tours. Best package: 3 nights, 4 days at Sapphire Beach Resort, deluxe accommodations, two 6-dive passes, \$462.87 per person, dbl. occ.

Shoal, Cow and Calf and The Leaf. Offers personalized diving services, photographic services. Booking office: PADI Travel Network. Best package: 7 nights accommodations, 6 tanks, luxury guest cottage, water views, jacuzzi, \$700 per person, dbl. occ.

### PARADISE WATERSPORTS

ST. JOHN • (809) 693-8690 • Dives the offshore cays, open-water sites of St. Thomas and St. John. Offers professional and personal diving services with over 20 years of experience in the Virgin Islands. Dive packages vary.

### SEA TRADE LTD.

ST. THOMAS • (809) 774-2001 • e-mail: [diveusvl@aol.com](mailto:diveusvl@aol.com) • Dives more than 55 dive sites primarily on the south side in the Caribbean, and many wrecks and reef sites. Offers SSI Professional Platinum Pro dive services. 25 years diving in the USVI. Booking office: The Scuba Mart Inc., (800) 843-8362. Best package: 6 dives, full gear, \$175.

### ST. THOMAS DIVING CLUB

ST. THOMAS • (800) LETS-DIVE, (809) 776-2381 • Dives Buck Island, WIT Shoal and the RMS Rhone. Offers a wide variety of scheduled dives, including wreck, deep and shallow dives. Dive packages vary. Call for rates.

### THE WAVES AT CANE BAY

ST. CROIX • (800) 545-0603, (809) 778-1805 • Dives Cane Bay, North Star and The Pier. Personalized attention and instruction from both land-based management and PADI dive instructors. Best package: 1 night dive, unlimited shore dives, 6 boat dives, accommodations (room with kitchen), \$499 per person.

### V. I. DIVERS

ST. CROIX • (800) 544-5911, (809) 773-6045 • e-mail: [vldivers@aol.com](mailto:vldivers@aol.com) • internet: <http://www.padi.com/vldivers.htm> • Dives entire north and west shores of St. Croix. Personal service, professional staff, custom dive boats. Package including 5 nights at Hotel Caravelle, 6 dives, \$443.

### LIVE-ABOARD

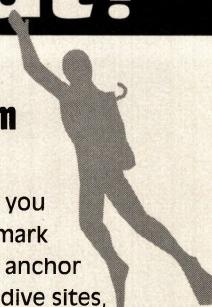
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line, dive sites,  
and wrecks for  
extended periods and  
quickly relocate  
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# UNEXSO

## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF DIVING ADVENTURE

**Q:**

How many dive resorts in the world can point to 30 years of continuous operation? Answer: You can count them on one hand—and not use all of your fingers.

The Underwater Explorers Society opened their doors in 1965 on Grand Bahama Island. Back then, its concept was bold and innovative: a resort dedicated to scuba diving. UNEXSO was the world's first.

Designed as a place where divers could feel they belong, UNEXSO promoted underwater exploration and adventure. That same vision drives UNEXSO today: UNEXSO is now the one destination for reef, shark, dolphin and shipwreck diving.

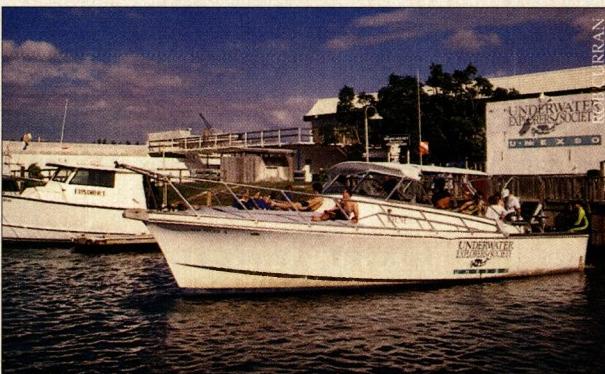
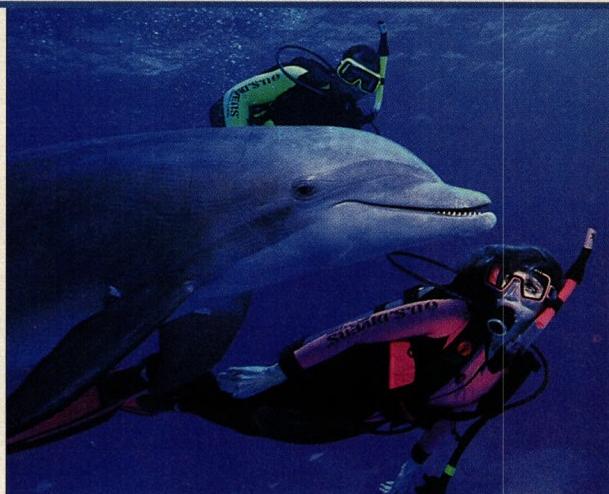
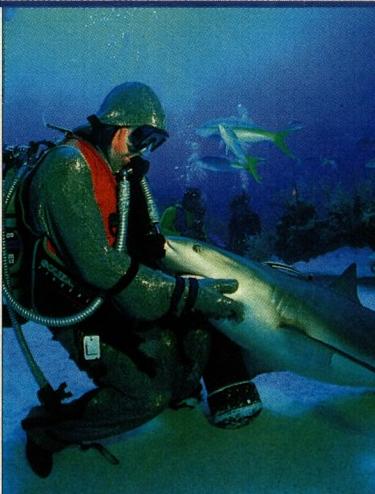
### UNEXSO—

#### INNOVATIONS IN DIVING

**AND DIVING ADVENTURE ▶** Over the last 30 years, UNEXSO has introduced many innovations that today divers take for granted. With its three-hour "resort course," UNEXSO extended "Try it, you'll like it" to diving. UNEXSO has introduced more than 60,000 people to scuba and developed the secondary air source, the octopus regulator. UNEXSO also pioneered organized night diving.

UNEXSO has created unique diving adventures and experiences: *Theo's Wreck*, a 230-foot steel freighter sunk as an artificial reef. The world-famous Dolphin Dive permits divers to interact in the open ocean with the friendly animals. The Dolphin Experience, where guests interact with dolphins and their trainers at the world's largest dolphin research facility. At UNEXSO, diving adventure is guaranteed.

**UNEXSO TODAY ▶** This spring, UNEXSO introduced the Professional Shark Feeder Program. For students, the first step is learning feeding techniques, understanding shark behavior and training in use of the steel-mesh chainmail shark suits. Graduates then



join the UNEXSO Shark Team in hand-feeding the sharp-toothed predators at Shark Junction. Cameras roll to document the action.

A major expansion project is underway to ready UNEXSO facilities for the next generation of adventure diving. The huge Freeport facility is being expanded, from 7,000 to 16,500 square feet. Pelican Bay is a new 48-room hotel that was designed with divers in mind. The waterfront resort is only a stone's throw from UNEXSO.

UNEXSO earned its reputation for convenient diving. The facilities feature well-stocked retail and photo/video centers, classrooms, docks, training pools, photo labs, even a recompression chamber.

#### TRAINING —

**A UNEXSO SPECIALTY ▶** UNEXSO is affiliated with PADI, NAUI and SSI. Options are resort courses, training from

open water through divemaster, specialty courses and check-outs and referrals for certifications. UNEXSO pioneer Ben Rose teaches unique Marine ID courses that he's developed over the last 25 years. And UNEXSO's NACD Cavern Course includes dives in three blue holes.

**BOOK IT ▶** UNEXSO offers two- to seven-night diving and accommodations packages with all major hotels and resorts on Grand Bahama, including the new Pelican Bay. Two-night packages start at \$176 per person/double occupancy for the Bahamas Princess Resort and \$214 for the Lucayan Beach Resort. The two-night packages include room and three boat dives. For reservations or information on other resort packages, phone UNEXSO: toll-free U.S./Canada at 1-800-992-DIVE or 954-351-9889. Fax (954) 351-9740.

—Text by Rob Curran

*It's not just a dive, it's an adventure. And no one offers more adventure than UNEXSO.*

# Fantasy Island

## TIME TRAVEL IS REALITY AT FANTASY ISLAND



*Left: Fantasy Island's assortment of rooms are perfect for the diver traveler who enjoys creature comforts. Above: Groups stay small and boats stay roomy on Fantasy Island's fleet of five dive boats.*

**N**ow you can travel back in time for savings on a Bay Islands dive vacation. Fantasy Island is rolling back rates to 1989, when the resort opened. A week's package is \$675 and includes diving, accommodations, all meals and Fantasy Island's famed luxury and hospitality.

### FANTASY DIVING IS A REALITY ▶

Fly over the private island in an airplane and you'll appreciate why the resort is a diver's fantasy. Stunning reefs and drop-offs fringe the property, just a few fin kicks from the shore-diving gazebo. From the resort on the south shore, a private road crosses the island to the lagoon that's home to Fantasy Island's north shore dive base. In four minutes, a comfortable van transports guests and their gear from the resort to the north shore docks. During a typical week, guests enjoy scheduled boat dives off both the south and north coasts of the island, a rarity at other resorts. Guests can expect to make 22 to 24 dives during their stay, including three boat trips daily, night dives and unlimited shore diving.

The scuba center at Fantasy Island is a large, modern facility with six roomy, island-built custom dive boats. Everything a diver needs is conveniently located dockside: boats, dive shop, equipment rentals, sign-up board, rinse bins and wet storage. If you're hankering to do some

shore diving day or night, just phone or visit the diver center—the staff will deliver your tanks and equipment to the dive gazebo. The Fantasy Island dive center also offers the complete range of SSI and PADI courses and instruction.

### LUXURY, COMFORT AND GREAT FOOD ▶

Fantasy Island Beach Resort established the standard in the Bay Islands for modern luxury and amenities. The resort is the only one on Roatan with air-conditioned interiors throughout. Brisk trade winds cool the Bay Islands, but it's a touch of luxury to retreat to air-conditioning whenever the needle of your personal thermostat creeps into the red. Fantasy Island takes good care of your stomach, too: the resort's restaurant ranked number two in the world in the 1996 Rodale's *Scuba Diving* Reader's Choice Awards. Guests appreciate a wide range of continental, Central American and island specialties.

The carpeted guest rooms at Fantasy Island are the picture of modern tropical comfort. The oceanfront rooms in the divers' wing—closest to the scuba center—feature air-conditioning, ceiling fan, 21-channel satellite TV, full bath, balcony and telephone. The larger beachfront rooms in the deluxe guest wing offer more amenities, including refrigerator, coffee maker, hair dryer and bigger bath.

Fantasy Island offers other ameni-

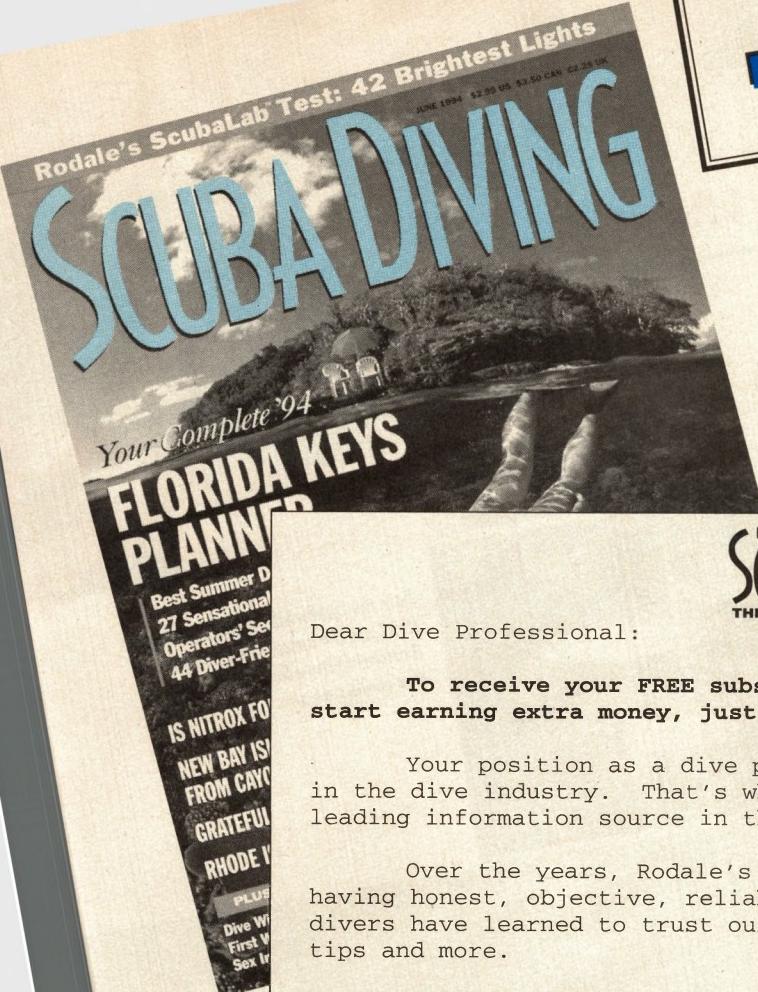
ties to make your Bay Islands vacation a delight: their own VIP Lounge and hostess at Roatan's new, modern airport. Beach pavilion and bar. Disco. Freshwater pool. Two lighted tennis courts. Room service. Watersports facility complete with sailboats, Hobie Cats, windsurfers, Jet Skis, sea kayaks, canoes, water skis and speed boats. Travel desk for mangrove, island and mainland expeditions. Car, moped and bicycle rentals. Complete marina. Conference rooms and facilities. Gift shop for snacks and vacation sundries.

**BOOK IT ▶** Specials include diving, accommodations for a week, all meals, airport greeting and transfers. A package with accommodations in the divers' wing is \$675. A package with beachfront accommodations is \$875. (Specials are available for stays through June 11 and from September 15 to December 15.)

Air connections to Roatan are now easier than ever: Fly TACA into Roatan on weekends. Or daily fly TACA, Continental or American into San Pedro Sula, Honduras, or Belize. The new Caribbean Air now offers daily service to Roatan from San Pedro and from Belize City on weekends.

Call Fantasy Island at (800) 676-2826 or (813) 835-4449 for reservations, air connections and information.

—Text and Photography by Rob Curran



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PROFESSIONALS ONLY:  
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- \* Special cash earning offer . . . see the blue box below.
- \* Win \$1,000: Dive instructor who brings in the most subscriptions in 1996 will win \$1,000!

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So hurry! Send the card in now, and see the blue box to find out how you can start earning some extra cash!

Sincerely,

David Taylor  
Executive Editor

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For the complete rules, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Marketing Manager, Scuba Diving, 33 E. Minor Street, Emmaus, PA 18098.

# Yucatanza™

## COZUMEL'S MOTHER LODE FOR DIVERS

**L**onging to drift effortlessly along the world's most impressive coral walls? Feeling that irresistible urge to submerge in crystal-clear azure waters? Bored with watching reruns of Hoss and Little Joe on late-night cable? Then tune in to Yucatanza and ride into a Cozumel sunset with Tropical Tours.

You can hang up your aquatic spurs at your choice of two right friendly resorts: Casa Del Mar or La Ceiba. Both hotels feature the Del Mar Aquatics dive center on-property for convenience — no horse or other transportation required. At the dive center, divers find docks, freshwater showers, equipment rinse and wet storage right in the shop. There's no need to lug wet gear back to your room.

Casa Del Mar is a handsome, friendly resort that thousands of divers have come to appreciate as their Cozumel home-away-from-home. The resort features the outside Palapa restaurant and bar for swim-up service when you're cooling off in the pool.

La Ceiba is a superior class, full-service resort near Casa Del Mar. Amenities include restaurants and bars in the lobby and ocean front, boutique, photo shop, fitness center, sauna, tennis courts, adult pool and children's wading pool, travel and tour desk, car rental center and great shore diving and snorkeling. All rooms have a balcony and refrigerator with a servi-bar.

The comfortable, modern rooms at both Casa Del Mar and La Ceiba feature air-conditioning, phone, private bath and satellite TV with premium channels.

Both Yucatanza packages feature hotel accommodations, daily breakfast, 10% discounts on food and beverage per room, boat and shore diving, ground transfers, hotel taxes and a Yucatanza t-shirt. If your attitude is "don't fence me in, pardner," Tropical Tours includes a one-day car rental for exploring the



island. For Casa Del Mar, five days runs \$269 for September through December 20, 1996 and \$305 for April 9, 1996 through June and includes three days of two-tank boat dives. The eight-day package includes five days of two-tank boat dives and costs \$429 for September through December 20, 1996 and \$499 for April 9,

1996 through June. For La Ceiba, five days runs \$309 for September through December 20, 1996 and \$359 for April 9, 1996 through June and includes three days of two-tank boat dives. The eight-day package includes five days of two-tank boat dives and costs \$499 for September through December 20, 1996 and \$599 for April 9, 1996 through June.

**BOOK IT ►** When you call Tropical Tours, you speak to divers. And they go beyond "one-size-fits-all": the experts customize itineraries. Tropical Tours features an impressive line-up of destinations throughout the Caribbean and Central America: Cozumel, Cancun, the



Both the comfortable Casa del Mar (top) and the upscale La Ceiba resort (bottom) feature Del Mar Aquatics dive centers on-site.

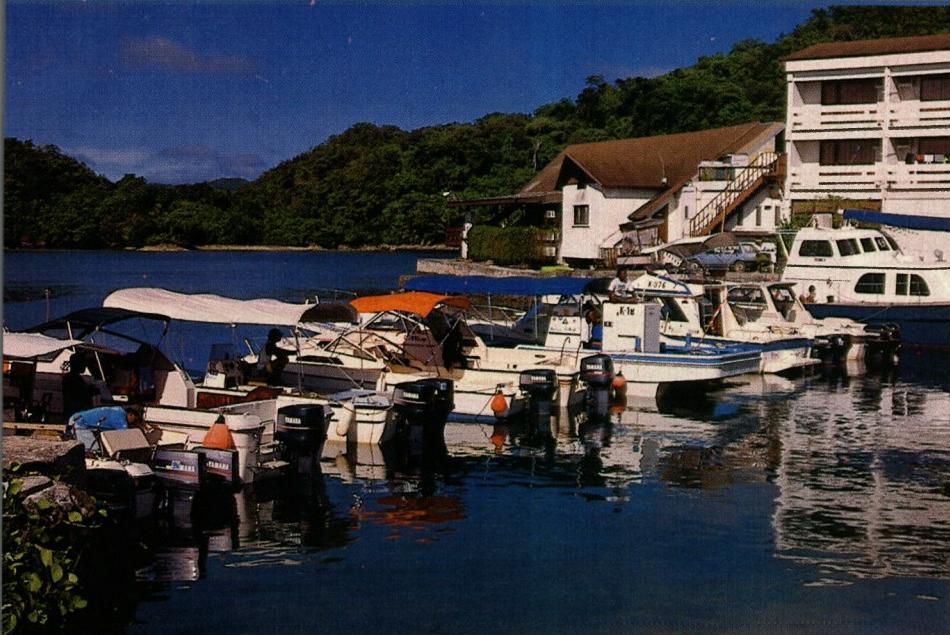


Yucatan, Cayman Islands, Belize, Costa Rica, the Bay Islands, Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba and the Turks & Caicos. Accommodations range from budget to all-inclusive and luxury, from hotels to dedicated dive resorts, from land-based getaways to live-aboards. In Cozumel alone, Tropical Tours offers accommodations and dive packages with 21 different resorts and nine leading dive operators. Phone Tropical Tours at 800-711-4700 or 713-855-6900 for details and lowest-cost airfares. Look for their home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.neosoft.com/tropical>. E-mail: <diver@neosoft.com>.

—Text by Rob Curran

# Fish 'N' Fins

## PALAU'S PREMIER DIVE CENTER



*Fish 'N' Fins fleet takes guests to the best diving sites in Palau—the top diving destination in the world according to Rodale readers.*

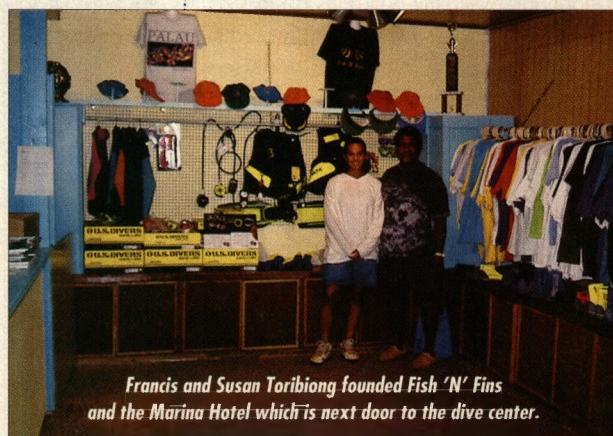
**P**alau has dozens of extraordinary dive sites—all visited by most local operators. But in Palau, just knowing where the sites are does not necessarily guarantee great diving. The real trick is knowing the whims and ways of the sea, which dictate, to those who know its language, when to put divers in the water. You'll find this expertise neatly packaged with impeccable service at Fish 'N' Fins, Palau's most respected dive operator.

Established in 1978, Fish 'N' Fins is at the core of Palau's dive community. After decades of working in the dive industry, Francis Toribiong created Fish 'N' Fins on the site of what was Palau's first dive shop. Today, almost 20 years later, Francis continues the Fish 'N' Fins tradition of friendly service and great diving with the help of his wife Susan and the rest of the Toribiong family.

Fish 'N' Fins is strategically situated along the water's edge, adjacent to the Marina Hotel—just minutes, by foot or taxi, from Koror, Palau's main shop-

ping district. The Fish 'N' Fins retail facility is stocked with dive equipment, T-shirts and assorted accessories. Outside, a fleet of small (six- to 10-passenger) boats are on hand to transport guests safely and comfortably through a maze of islands to Palau's best diving.

The Fish 'N' Fins staff have, over the years, located more than 50 unique dive sites in the Palau Lagoon area. They've also uncovered fifty ships from the Japanese Imperial Navy. The most popular sites are the drop-offs: Big Drop-off, Ngemelis, Peleliu and Blue Corner which attracts sharks, mantas, barracudas, jacks, myriad reef fish and an endless assortment of big pelagics. Equally intriguing are the walls and reefs—adorned with sea fans, sponges and enormous soft coral trees,



*Francis and Susan Toribiong founded Fish 'N' Fins and the Marina Hotel which is next door to the dive center.*

woven into a breathtaking tapestry.

Fish 'N' Fins offers two- and three-tank daily charters, as well as night dives. Instruction is offered for beginners who want to learn to dive, and also for certified divers, wishing to continue their underwater education. Full day/half day trolling is also offered, along with picnic/snorkel excursions to Palau's mushroom-shaped, emerald-green Rock Islands.

As Palau's popularity increased over the years, the Toribions saw the need for accommodations that were convenient and affordable. So, in 1989, with the aid of a Japanese partner, they built the Marina Hotel right next to the Fish 'N' Fins Dive Center. The Marina Hotel features an indoor restaurant, seaside bar and 27 cozy, air-conditioned rooms, all with sweeping views and private balconies.

**BOOK IT ►** Dive with the Fish 'N' Fins family and you're sure to enjoy the absolute best Palau has to offer. Convenient packages are available, which combine accommodations, meals and diving. To make reservations, or for additional information, contact Fish 'N' Fins direct in Palau. Phone 011 (680)488-2637;

Fax 011 (680) 488-1725 or write to P.O. Box 142, Koror, Palau 96940. Or contact Fish 'N' Fins U.S. agent, Poseidon Ventures, at (800) 854-9334.

# Bayman Bay Club

## HOT MAY DEALS AT BAYMAN BAY CLUB

Guanaja—home to Bayman Bay Club—is the tallest and second largest jewel in the chain of the Bay Islands of Honduras. The hilly island is as unspoiled as it is picturesque: no cars or roads—just mountain peaks jutting from the green jungle.

During May, Bayman Bay Club is serving up a tantalizing dive package and two underwater photography programs. If you're interested, don't delay—call the reservations office today.

The resort is offering their "Five For Five" special for May 6 to 11. For \$500, divers enjoy five nights of ocean-view accommodations, all meals, five days of two-tank boat trips, night dive, unlimited shore diving, waterfall outing, beach barbecue party and ocean kayaks for exploring the blue waters around the island.

Noted photographer Dan Auber will teach two week-long underwater photography courses. The first runs from May 11 to 18; the second, from May 18 to 25. Each session features a photo contest and equipment giveaways. The fee for the photo course is \$150.

Bayman Bay is a hideaway with gentle sea breezes, spectacular sunsets and some of the finest diving in the world. Underwater visibility averages 85 to 125 feet. Just offshore are mammoth corals, fringing reefs and impressive undersea walls. The reefs surrounding the island are a thriving marine environment protected by the national underwater park. Guanaja is famous for its great diversity of fish, invertebrates, sponges, and spectacular hard and soft coral formations.

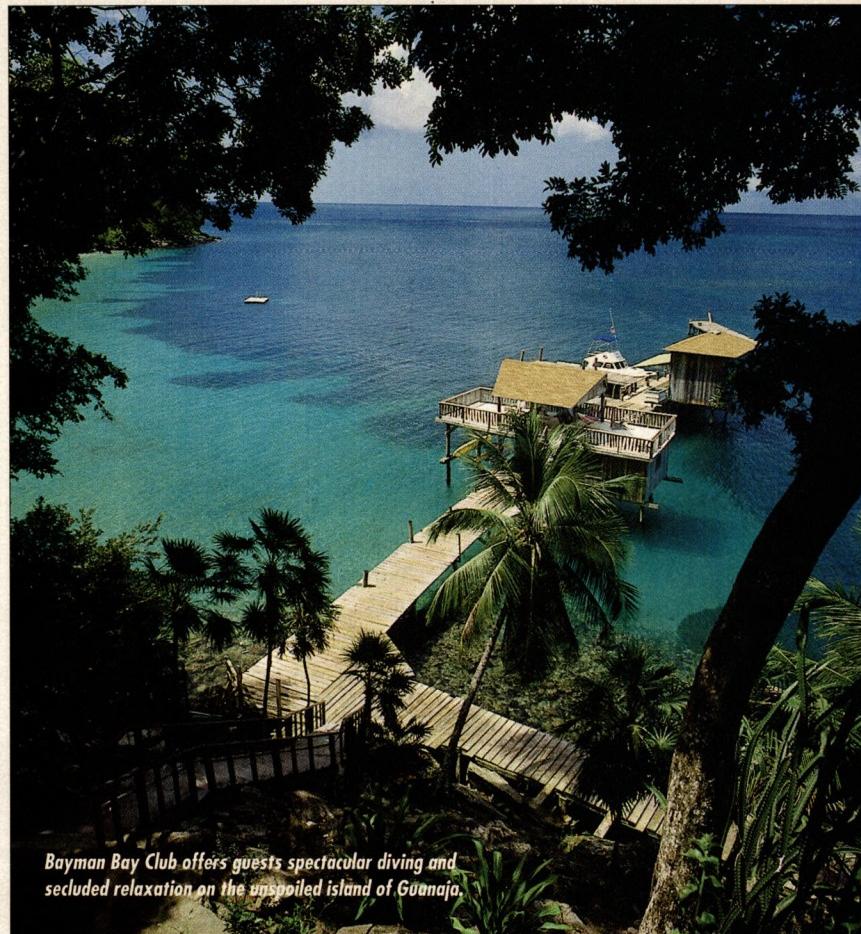
With Bayman Bay's custom dive boats, over 30 dazzling sites are just minutes away from the dive center. Divers can cruise walls, canyons, wrecks, grottoes, caverns and tunnels.

Snorkeling and shore diving adventures begin in the Club's own lagoon. Day and night, divers are fascinated by the living corals, colorful tropical fish and unique undersea formations. Several

channels—some up to 200 feet deep—cut through the reef for exotic canyon dives right from the resort.

Bayman Bay nestles in lush tropical vegetation on a sandy beach. The three-level clubhouse is the resort's striking centerpiece. The main level features the dining

The excellent meals at The Bayman Bay Club are served family-style in the Clubhouse. The bill of fare is a combination of mainland, continental and island cuisines, including a variety of local seafood and fresh-fruit delicacies. Meals are a social highlight of the day.



*Bayman Bay Club offers guests spectacular diving and secluded relaxation on the unspoiled island of Guanaja.*

room, bar and sunset veranda. Upstairs are the library, lounge and game room. One flight up is the observation deck with the best siesta hammock in the islands.

Meandering paths connect the clubhouse and the 18 cottages that dot the hillside. Each cottage has a spacious bedroom, private bath and veranda with ocean view. Cooled by ceiling fans and shaded by tropical trees, the cottages are comfortable year-round.

**BOOK IT ►** Attractive low-season rates for Bayman Bay Club are available for stays between April 27 and Dec. 20, 1996. A seven-night package with accommodations, meals, two dives a day and more is \$749 pp/do. Phone Bayman Bay Club at (800) 524-1823 or (305) 572-1902. If you're wired, check out Bayman Bay's stunning web site at: <http://bayman.lwm.com/bayman/>.

—Text by Rob Curran

# Dive Dive Dive

## THE PERFECT DIVE VACATION RETREAT



**I**t's almost time for vacation — the much anticipated migration in search of fun, adventure and a little relaxation. A week of sunning, funning and diving. A week of dragging soggy dive gear back and forth to a hotel room that doubles as a storage locker. A week of extortionist-rate restaurant tabs, negatively buoyant fast food and dive boat capacities that would sink the QE2.

BUT WAIT! Before you cattle boat your way through another dive holiday, consider this option. A self-contained villa just steps from the dock on the country-quiet south side of New Providence, Bahamas, the home of Dive Dive Dive. It's not a hotel that offers diving, but a dive resort that does one thing — caters to divers. The bungalows are newly remodeled, air-conditioned units that sleep four very comfortably. Fully equipped kitchens, color TV, VCRs, private patios with barbeques and maid service are standard amenities. Continental breakfast is offered and catered lunches are available daily. A few quirky local restaurants are nearby as well as the dining delights along Nassau's famous Bahamian Riviera.

A freshwater rinse tank and spacious equipment storage room are conveniently located next to the boat dock, which definitely makes gear transfer effortless. Dive Dive Dive's easy-on-and-

off dive boats make two tank trips in the morning and afternoon. The 36 established dive sites feature dramatic 6,000-foot dropoffs, wrecks and movie sets from James Bond and Jaws 4. Full-day charter trips to Andros, the Blue Hole and the Wall at the Tongue of the Ocean can easily be arranged for any size group.

If that's not enough, twice weekly there is a visit to Shark Alley for an up close encounter with Caribbean reef sharks at feeding time. You will never forget the rush of a six-foot shark gliding inches above your head as it homes in on the handler's bait.

Need more adventure? Think specialty courses. Dive Dive Dive is an ANDI, IANTD, TDI, NASDS, NAUI, SSI and PADI training facility and was the first dive operation in the Caribbean to offer nitrox certification. Extend your diver training with Nitrox, Wreck, Deep Diver or Night Diver courses, or complete your Divemaster and Master Scuba Diver qualifications with First Aid and Rescue Diver courses. For lasting memories, try underwater photography. Rental camera systems, expert advice and same-day developing are available.

Need more than diving? A lonesome stretch of beach is moments from your villa for lazy afternoon sunning or late-night star gazing. If you're still not

tired, try horseback riding, cycling, casino roaming or a leisurely shopping trip along Nassau's Bay Street.



**Dive Dive Dive's recently renovated resort villas offer divers a convenient and very comfortable alternative to Nassau's major hotels.**

**BOOK IT ▶** The sun is shining, the water's great and Dive Dive Dive is just a short flight from anywhere. Call and ask about their Spring Escape offer. From April 13 through June 29, a seven-night stay (based on double occupancy) is just \$860 for the first diver and only \$430 for the second. For information and reservations, call toll free at 800-368-3483 or fax 809-362-1994. From Nassau call 362-1143. Mention you saw this article in Rodale's for a bonus!

—Text by Judy Newton

ADVERTISEMENT

## DIVE OPERATOR PROFILE

# Dive Provo

## HOT SUMMER SPECIALS STRETCH THROUGH WINTER'S CHILL

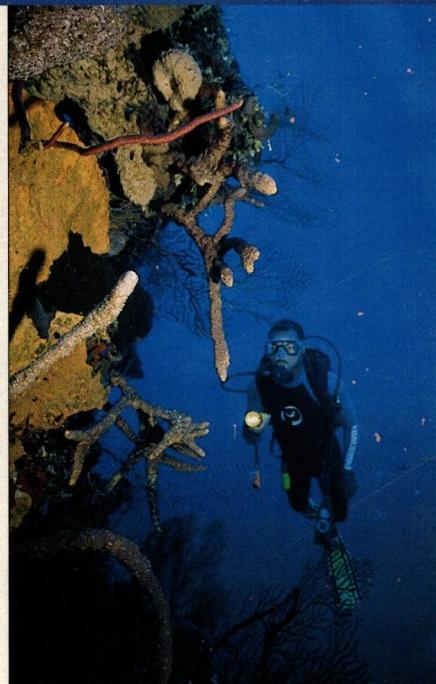
**D**ive Provo wants to make your summer last through December 21st. Hot specials start at \$414 pp/do for a jam-packed package: Four days at the Turquoise Reef Resort and Casino. Two mornings of two-tank dives. One afternoon or night dive. Daily breakfast buffet. Cocktail party and Divers' Happy Hour with slide show. Transfers, hotel taxes and gratuities. The package also features a free REEF ID full-color book per diver. Travel from April 21 - Sept. 30 and get another afternoon or night dive free.

Dive Provo is a PADI 5-Star Facility at the Turquoise Reef Resort and Casino in Providenciales. It's also a complete watersports center with a friendly, professional staff and three roomy, fast boats. The 42-foot jet-powered Provo Explorer

whisks divers to exciting sites beyond the range of slower boats. The dive center offers a complete range of PADI instruction, including check-outs, advanced training and specialty courses, plus NAUI and SSI referrals. Camera enthusiasts appreciate the Underwater Photo and Video Center and E-6 film processing.

**BOOK IT ►** In June and September '96, bring a group of 10 divers and save: Pay for eight diving/hotel packages, and get two free. Getting to Providenciales is now easier than ever: American Airlines just added a second daily flight from Miami. Phone the U.S. reservations office for other packages: (800) 234-7768. Ask about the resort's "Kids Stay Free" program. Fax (954) 351-9740.

—Text by Rob Curran



## FREE DIVE BAG TAG!



Just send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with a business card or your name, address and phone number and we'll make a luggage tag for your dive bag. Then, if during their travels, one of our employees sees the luggage tag on your dive bag, you'll win more RSD merchandise!

Send it to:

Luggage Tag • Rodale's Scuba Diving  
6600 Abercorn St., Ste. 208 • Savannah, GA 31405

### Bonus Giveaway!

Send in for your luggage tag and we'll include a Rodale's Scuba Diving bumper sticker.

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paper with your name, address and daytime  
phone number. Specify size and quantities.  
Include \$4 S&H, plus \$1 each additional shirt.

## Travel Specialists

(Continued from page 38)

• Internet: <http://www.maluku.com> • Andaman Islands, Maldives, South Africa, Indonesia, Borneo, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

### MOORE TOURS

(800) 527-6366, (214) 907-0915 • Grand Cayman.

### MTM TOURS

(800) 654-3130, (713) 448-9258 • Baja, Cozumel, Pacific Coast of Mexico, Yucatan.

### NABILA TOURS AND CRUISES

(800) 443-6453, (415) 979-0160 • e-mail: [nabila@aol.com](mailto:nabila@aol.com) • Egypt.

### NEAL WATSON'S UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

(800) 327-8150 • e-mail: [Nealwatsons@aol.com](mailto:Nealwatsons@aol.com) • Bahamas, Bonaire, St. Lucia, Belize.

### OCEAN CONNECTION

(800) 365-6232, (713) 996-7800 • Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Cayman Islands, Saba, St. Lucia, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, Baja, Cozumel, Yucatan, Ecuador, Venezuela.

### OZ DIVE

(800) 4-PARADISE, (703) 406-2703 • Australia.

### PACIFIC COAST ADVENTURES

(800) 491-3483, (310) 260-3161 • Australia, Bahamas, Baja, Belize, Bonaire, BVI's, Cayman Islands, Cocos Island, Costa Rica, Cozumel, Cuba, Curaçao, Ecuador, Fiji, Florida, Florida Keys, Galapagos, Hawaii, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Micronesia, New Zealand, Pacific Mexico, Palau, Panama, Puerto Rico, Seychelles, Southern Australia, Truk, Turks & Caicos, USVI's, Venezuela, Yucatan.

### PACTOURS, INC.

(800) 245-4129, (671) 649-3221 • e-mail: [pactours@kuentos.guam.net](mailto:pactours@kuentos.guam.net) • Guam, Hawaii, Micronesia, Palau, Philippines, Truk, Yap.

### PADI TRAVEL NETWORK

(800) 729-7234, EXT. 2; (714) 540-7234, EXT. 2

### POSEIDON VENTURE TOURS

(800) 644-9334, (714) 644-5344 • e-mail: [poseidon@mailcalypso.com](mailto:poseidon@mailcalypso.com) • Bahamas, BVI's, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Saba, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Island, Panama, Kenya, Maldives, Seychelles, Tanzania, Mexico, Cozumel, Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Galapagos, Indonesia, Borneo, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Truk, Vanuatu, Yap, Egypt, Israel, Colombia, Maipelo, Ecuador.

### REEF & RAINFOREST WORLDWIDE ADVENTURE TRAVEL

(800) 794-9767, (415) 289-1760 • e-mail: [rnrtravel@aol.com](mailto:rnrtravel@aol.com) • Internet: <http://www.refrainfrst.com> • Aruba, Bahamas, BVI's, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saba, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Andaman Islands, Azores, Kenya, Maldives, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Baja, Cozumel, Pacific Mexico, Yucatan, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marianas, Marquesas, Micronesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Truk, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Western Samoa, Yap, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Galapagos, Venezuela.

### ROATAN CHARTER

(800) 282-8932, (904) 588-4132 • Bay Islands.

### ROTHSCHILD DIVE SAFARIS

(800) 559-0747, (212) 662-4858 • e-mail: [rothsive@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rothsive@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.empg.com/rothschild> • Bahamas, Bermuda, BVI's, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saba, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, USVI's, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Island, Greece, Malta, Andaman Islands, Comoros, Kenya, Malawi, Maldives, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Mexico, Baja, Cozumel, Pacific Mexico, Yucatan, Australia, Cook

Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Galapagos, Hawaii, Indonesia, Borneo, Kiribati, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pohnpei, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Truk, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Western Samoa, Egypt, Yap, Israel, Jordan, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Mozambique, Christmas Island.

### SAND DOLLAR TOURS

(800) 394-2674, (970) 225-2660 • Bahamas, Bermuda, BVI's, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, St. Lucia, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Islands, Mexico, Baja, Cozumel, Yucatan, Fiji, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Micronesia, Palau, Solomon Islands, and Palau.

### SCUBA TRAVEL VENTURES

(800) 298-9009, (619) 279-2202 • Belize, BVI's, Cocos Island, Costa Rica, Cozumel, Hawaii, Honduras, Malaysia, Southern California, Yucatan, Micronesia and Palau.

### SCUBA VOYAGES

(800) 544-7621, (909) 341-1831 • e-mail: [scubavoy@ix.netcom.com](mailto:scubavoy@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.mprenet.com/~voyages/index.htm> • Bonaire, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Saba, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico, Cozumel, Pacific Coast.

### SCUBAMERICA TOURS

(800) DIVE-NCL, (305) 567-2600 • Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, BVI's, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Puerto Rico, USVI's, Florida Keys, Mexico, Cozumel.

### SEA FIJI TRAVEL

(800) 854-3454, (303) 447-3462, (011) 679-850345 • Fiji.

### SEE & SEA TRAVEL

(800) DIV-XPRT, (415) 434-3400 • e-mail: [divxprt@ix.netcom.com](mailto:divxprt@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.batt.net.com/see&sea> • Australia, Belize, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Egypt, Fiji, Galapagos, Hawaii, Honduras, Indian Ocean, Maldives, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Red Sea, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Truk, Turks & Caicos, Yap.

### SOUTH SEAS ADVENTURES

(800) 576-7327, (303) 440-8675 • American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Truk, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Egypt, Israel, Jordan.

### SPORTOURS

(800) 660-2754, (818) 790-4882 • Internet: <http://www.sportours.com> • Australia, Bahamas, Baja, Belize, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Cozumel, Egypt, Fiji, Galapagos, Hawaii, Honduras, Indonesia, Maldives, Mexico, Micronesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Truk, Turks & Caicos, Vanuatu, Yap, Yucatan.

### SUNBURST HIDEAWAYS

(800) 972-9795, (303) 426-4865 • Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Honduras.

### TERRA FIRMA ADVENTURES

(800) 524-1823, (954) 572-1902 • Internet: <http://bayman.lwm.com/bayman> • Bay Islands.

### THE SCUBA MART

(800) 843-8366, (407) 585-2329 • e-mail: [p010435b@pbfreinet.seflin.lib.fl.us](mailto:p010435b@pbfreinet.seflin.lib.fl.us) • Anguilla, Antigua and Barbados, Aruba, Bahamas, BVI's, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saba, St. Barthélémy, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, USVI's, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Island, Maldives, Florida Keys, Southern Florida, Mexico, Cozumel, Yucatan, Pacific Coast, Australia, Fiji, Galapagos, Guam, Hawaii, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Truk, Vanuatu, Egypt, Colombia, Malpelo, Brazil, Atlantic, Venezuela, Amazon.

### TICO TRAVEL

(800) 493-8426, (954) 493-8426 • e-mail: [tico@gate.net](mailto:tico@gate.net) • Internet: <http://www.centralamerica.com> • Costa Rica, Cocos Islands, Pacific.

### TIERRA MAR TRAVEL

(800) 525-5524, (602) 833-4997 • Internet: <http://www.geopages.com/thetropics/1660> • Bahamas, BVI's, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Saba, Belize,

Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Islands, California, Mexico, Baja, Cozumel, Yucatan, Fiji, Galapagos, Hawaii, Indonesia, Micronesia, Palau, Truk.

### TINY BUBBLES EXPEDITIONS

(407) 744-7884 • e-mail: [selwolf@aol.com](mailto:selwolf@aol.com) • Australia, Azores, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Galapagos, Panama, Turks & Caicos, Canadian Arctic, Chagos Archipelago, Patagonia, Socorro Island.

### TOUCANTOUR, LTD.

(800) 465-0769, (504) 465-0769 • Belize.

### TRAVEL OPTIONS

(310) 724-5350 • Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Galapagos, Gilbert Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pohnpei, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.

### TRIP-N-TOUR MICRONESIA

(800) 348-0842, (619) 724-5027 • e-mail: [tntmicro@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tntmicro@ix.netcom.com) • Internet: <http://www.empg.com/trip-n-tour> • Mariana Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Truk, Yap.

### TROPICAL ADVENTURES TRAVEL

(800) 247-3483, (206) 441-3483 • e-mail: [103520.2014@compuserve.com](mailto:103520.2014@compuserve.com) • Internet: <http://www.travelsource.com/scuba/tadive.html> • Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Saba, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Island, Andaman Islands, Azores, Kenya, Maldives, Seychelles, Tanzania, Mexico, Baja, Cozumel, Yucatan, Australia, Fiji, Galapagos, Hawaii, Indonesia, Borneo, Malaysia, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Truk, Vanuatu, Yap, Egypt, Israel, Ecuador, Venezuela.

### TROPICAL TOURS, INC.

(800) 711-4700, (713) 855-6900 • e-mail: [diver@neosoft.com](mailto:diver@neosoft.com) • Internet: <http://www.neosoft.com/tropical> • Aruba, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Baja, Cozumel.

### TROPICAL TRAVEL REPRESENTATIVES

(800) 451-8017, (713) 367-3386 • e-mail: [tropical@sat.net](mailto:tropical@sat.net) • Internet: <http://www.sat.net/~tropical> • Aruba, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Islands and Pacific.

### U.S. DIVE TRAVEL

(206) 937-7484 • Internet: <http://www.SeattleWeb.com/DiveTravel> • Bahamas, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Saba, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Island, Maldives, Seychelles, Mexico, Baja, Cozumel, Australia, Cool Islands, Fiji, Galapagos, Hawaii, Indonesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Truk, Egypt, Israel, South America.

### UNDERSEA EXPEDITIONS, INC.

(800) 669-0310, (619) 270-2900 • e-mail: [underseax@aol.com](mailto:underseax@aol.com) • Saba, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Island, Mexico, Cozumel, Australia, Queensland, Fiji, Galapagos, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Truk, Yap.

### UNIREP, LTD.

(800) 521-7242, (213) 256-1991 • Fiji, Papua New Guinea.

### USA TRAVEL NETWORK

(800) 771-1133, (954) 467-1133 • Bahamas, BVI's, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saba, St. Barthélémy, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cocos Island, Maldives, Seychelles, Mexico, Cozumel, Yucatan, Micronesia, Palau, Truk.

### WATERHOUSE PHOTO TOURS

(800) 272-9122, (305) 451-2222 • Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, BVI's, Bonaire, California, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cozumel, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Florida, Galapagos, Grenada, Hawaii, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Martinique, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saba, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, St. Martin, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Truk, Turks & Caicos, Tuvalu, USVI's, Vanuatu, Yap, Yucatan.

### WATERWAYS TRAVEL

(800) 928-3757, (818) 376-0341 • Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Micronesia.

# FREE DIVE INFO

Simply tear out the reply card, circle the numbers preceding the names of the companies which interest you, fill out your name and address, affix postage, and drop it in the mailbox. You'll soon be receiving information which will help make your diving more enjoyable!

## DIVE DESTINATIONS

### ARUBA

1. AIR ARUBA 1-800-677-7888 See ad pg. 47
2. ARUBA PALM BEACH 1-800-345-2782 See ad pg. 39
3. ARUBA TOURISM 1-800-TO-ARUBA See ad pg. 47
4. PELICAN WATERSPORTS 011-2978-3128 See ad pg. 47
5. RED SAIL SPORTS/ARUBA 1-800-255-6425 See ad pg. 47
6. SCUBA ARUBA 011-2978-34142 See ad pg. 47
7. UNIQUE SPORTS OF ARUBA 011-2978-60096 See ad pg. 47

### BAHAMAS

8. BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM 1-800-866-DIVE See ad pg. 53
9. DIVE ABAKO 1-800-247-5338 See ad pg. 56
10. DIVE DIVE DIVE 1-800-368-3483 See ad pg. 54
11. EXUMA FANTASEA 1-809-336-3483 See ad pg. 114
12. GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND TOURISM/UNEXSO 1-800-992-DIVE (3483) See ad pg. 55
13. LUCAYAN BEACH/UNEXSO 1-800-992-DIVE (3483) See ad pg. 54
14. SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE 1-800-223-6961 See ad pg. 56
15. STELLA MARIS 1-800-426-0466 See ad pg. 56
16. STUART COVE'S DIVE SOUTH OCEAN 1-800-646-3333 See ad pg. 55
17. SUNSKIFF 1-800-331-5884 See ad pg. 114
18. UNEXSO 1-800-992-DIVE (3483) See ad pg. 52
19. VALENTINE'S DIVE CENTER 1-800-383-6480 See ad pg. 114
20. WALKER'S CAY 1-800-513-5257 See ad pg. 56

### BARBADOS

21. HIGH TIDES WATERSPORTS 1-809-432-1311 See ad pg. 72
22. THE DIVE SHOP 1-809-426-9947 See ad pg. 72

### BAY ISLANDS/HONDURAS

23. ANTHONY'S KEY RESORT 1-800-227-3483 See ad pg. 69
24. BAY ISLANDS BEACH RESORT 1-800-4 ROATAN See ad pg. 117
25. BAYMAN BAY CLUB 1-800-524-1823 See ad pg. 68
26. FANTASY ISLAND BEACH RESORT 1-800-676-2826 See ad pg. 68
27. LAGUNA BEACH RESORT 1-800-668-8452 See ad pg. 66
28. POSADA DEL SOL/INN OF THE SUN 1-800-642-3483 See ad pg. 68
29. ROATAN CHARTER, INC. 1-800-282-8932 See ad pg. 67
30. UTILA REEF RESORT 1-800-263-9876 See ad pg. 116

### BELIZE

31. ADVENTURE'S IN WATERSPORTS 1-800-648-8990 See ad pg. 65
32. BELIZE TOURIST BOARD 1-800-624-0686 See ad pg. 65
33. BOTTOM TIME DIVE SHOP/BZ TRAVEL SERVICES 1-800-382-7776 See ad pg. 115
34. JOURNEY'S END 1-800-460-5665 See ad pg. 65
35. RAMON'S VILLAGE 1-800-524-4215 See ad pg. 65
36. RUM POINT INN 1-800-747-1381 See ad pg. 65
37. SOULSHINE RESORT 1-800-890-6082 See ad pg. 65

### BERMUDA

38. BERMUDA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM 1-800-821-1199 See ad pg. 57
39. BLUE WATER DIVERS 1-441-234-1034 See ad pg. 57
40. FANTASEA DIVING 1-441-236-6339 See ad pg. 57
41. SOUTHSIDE SCUBA 1-441-238-1833 See ad pg. 57

### BONAIRE

42. DIVI FLAMINGO RESORTS 1-800-367-3484 See ad pg. 49
43. PLAZA RESORTS BONAIRE 1-800-766-6016 See ad pg. 49
44. SAND DOLLAR CONDOMINIUM RESORT 1-800-288-4773 See ad pg. 48
45. TOURISM CORPORATION OF BONAIRE 1-800-U-BONAIRE See ad pg. 49

### CALIFORNIA

46. SUNDIVER 1-310-493-0951 See ad pg. 116

### CARIBBEAN

47. CARIBBEAN TOURISM COALITION 1-800-356-9999 EXT. 318 See ad pg. 19
48. DIVE DOMINICA 1-809-448-2188 See ad pg. 72
49. TIDCO 1-800-595-1111 See ad pg. 71

### CAYMAN ISLANDS

49. BRAC REEF BEACH RESORT 1-800-327-3835 See ad pg. 63
50. CLARIION GRAND PAVILION 1-809-947-5656 See ad pg. 63
51. COCONUT HARBOUR 1-800-552-6281 See ad pg. 64
52. GRAND CAYMAN BEACHFRONT HOME 1-716-524-1000 See ad pg. 114
53. RED SAIL SPORTS 1-800-255-6425 See ad pg. 60
54. SISTER ISLANDS TOURISM ASSOC. (SITA) 1-800-346-3313 See ad pg. 61
55. SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB 1-800-899-2582 See ad pg. 64
56. TREASURE ISLAND DIVERS 1-800-872-7552 See ad pg. 62

### COZUMEL/MEXICO

57. AQUA SAFARI/DIVE TOURS 1-800-433-0885 See ad pg. 83
144. BLUE BUBBLE DIVERS 1-800-878-8853 See ad pg. 82
58. DIVE HOUSE 1-800-346-6116 See ad pg. 87
59. DIVE PARADISE 1-800-308-5125 See ad pg. 84
60. DIVE TOURS 1-800-433-0885 See ad pg. 88
61. FIESTA AMERICANA COZUMEL REEF HOTEL 1-800-346-6116 See ad pg. 87
62. GRAND CLUB, INC. 1-800-504-0552 See ad pg. 115
63. ISLAND DREAMS TRAVEL 1-800-336-6116 See ad pg. 87
64. MELIA MAYAN PARADISUS 1-800-336-3542 See ad pg. 85
65. PLAZA LAS GLORIAS 1-800-433-0885 See ad pg. 83
66. REEF & RAINFOREST WORLDWIDE ADVENTURE TRAVEL 1-800-794-9RNR See ad pg. 116
67. SCUBA DU 011-52-987-23397 See ad pg. 114
68. TROPICAL TOURS INC. 1-800-711-4700 See ad pg. 86

### FLORIDA

70. GIANT STRIDE CHARTERS 1-800-WPB-DIVE See ad pg. 115

### FLORIDA KEYS

71. AQUA NUTS/KELLY'S ON THE BAY 1-800-226-0415 See ad pg. 75
72. FLORIDA KEYS DIVE CENTER 1-800-433-8946 See ad pg. 75
73. IT'S A DIVE WATERSPORTS 1-800-934-8377 See ad pg. 76

### HAWAII

74. ATLANTIS REEF DIVERS 1-800-554-6267 See ad pg. 79
75. ECO-ADVENTURES 1-808-329-7116 See ad pg. 79
76. HAWAIIAN DIVERS 1-800-525-PADI See ad pg. 79 & 114
77. MANTA RAY DIVES 1-800-98-MANTA See ad pg. 79

### MIDWEST

78. BONNE TERRE MINE 1-314-731-5003 See ad pg. 117

### PACIFIC

79. CONTINENTAL MICRONESIA 1-800-900-7857 See ad pg. 92
80. DIVE DISCOVERY/BILIKIKI CRUISES LTD 1-800-886-7321 See ad pg. 114
81. DIVE DISCOVERY/DIVE GIZO/ADVENTURE SPORTS 1-800-886-7321 See ad pg. 114

### SAM'S DIVE TOURS

82. DIVE DISCOVERY/SAM'S DIVE TOURS 1-800-886-7321 See ad pg. 116
83. FISH 'N FINS 011-680-488-2637 See ad pg. 91
84. PACTOURS 1-800-245-4129 See ad pg. 92
85. PALAU DIVING CENTER/CARP ISLAND RESORT 011-680-488-2978 See ad pg. 90
86. PALAU PACIFIC RESORT 011-680-488-2600 See ad pg. 91
87. PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY 011-680-488-2793 See ad pg. 90
88. POSEIDON VENTURES 1-800-854-9334 See ad pg. 91
89. SAM'S DIVE TOURS 1-800-886-7321 See ad pg. 90
90. SEAWARD HOLIDAYS. S. THORFINN 011-691-330-4302 See ad pg. 91
91. SPLASH 011-680-488-2800 See ad pg. 117
92. SUNDANCE TOURS & DIVE SHOP 1-808-325-5000 See ad pg. 116

93. THE CAROLINES RESORT 011-680-488-3754 See ad pg. 90
94. TRIP N TOUR MICRONESIA 1-800-348-0842 See ad pg. 91
95. TRUCK STOP HOTEL 011-691-330-4232 See ad pg. 92

### PUERTO RICO

96. PUERTO RICO TOURISM 1-800-866-7827 See ad pg. 95

### TURKS & CAICOS

97. ARAWAK INN 1-809-946-2277 See ad pg. 98
98. CAICOS ADVENTURES 1-800-513-5822 See ad pg. 99

### 99. DIVE PROVO

100. FLAMINGO DIVERS 1-800-204-9282 See ad pg. 97

### 101. GUANAHANI BEACH RESORT

102. I-809-946-2666 See ad pg. 99

### 103. OCEAN CLUB

104. I-800-457-8787 See ad pg. 98

### 105. SEA EYE DIVING

106. I-809-946-1407 See ad pg. 98

### 107. TURKS & CAICOS TOURISM BOARD

108. I-800-241-0824 See ad pg. 97

### 109. TURKS HEAD INN

110. I-809-946-2466 See ad pg. 98

### UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

### 111. ANCHOR DIVE

112. DIVE EXPERIENCE 1-800-235-9047 See ad pg. 102

### 113. LOW KEY WATERSPORTS

114. I-800-372-USVI See ad pg. 100

### 115. UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

116. VI DIVERS 1-800-524-0410 See ad pg. 101

### 117. VI DIVERS

118. VENEZUELA 1-800-433-0885 See ad pg. 96

### DIVE EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION

### 119. CORAL CAY CONSERVATION

120. D.A.N. 1-800-446-2671 See ad pg. 114

### 121. OCEAN CORPORATION

122. PDIC INTERNATIONAL 1-717-342-1276 See ad pg. 33

### 123. SCUBA EMPORIUM

124. IDEAS DESIGN, INC. 1-800-275-4332 See ad pg. 114

### 125. OZTEX, INC.

126. UWATEC 1-503-644-2485 See ad pg. 19

### 127. UWATEC

128. UWATEC 1-800-804-DIVE See ad pg. C3

### DIVE EQUIPMENT

### 129. DIVE TRAVEL SPECIALIST

### 130. BAHIA TOURS

131. BAHIA TOURS 1-800-227-3483 See ad pg. 116

### 132. BLUE BONNET TOURS

133. BLUE LAGOON ADVENTURES INC. 1-516-228-3100 See ad pg. 115

### 134. CARIBBEAN ADVENTURES

135. CARIBBEAN ADVENTURES 1-800-934-DIVE See ad pg. 116

### 136. DIVE TOURS/APPLE VACATIONS

137. DUEL TRAVEL 1-800-990-3839 See ad pg. 39

### 138. GREAT SOUTHERN ISLAND ADVENTURES

139. I-800-748-8733 See ad pg. 117

### 140. POSEIDON VENTURES

141. POSEIDON VENTURES 1-800-854-9334 See ad pg. 88

### 142. REEF & RAINFOREST WORLDWIDE ADVENTURES TRAVEL

143. TROPICAL ADVENTURES TRAVEL 1-800-247-3483 See ad pg. 117

### 144. TROPICAL ADVENTURES TRAVEL

145. TROPICAL ADVENTURES TRAVEL 1-800-247-3483 See ad pg. 113

### LIVE-ABOARDS

### 146. AGGRESSOR FLEET

147. EXPLORER VENTURES LTD 1-800-322-3577 See ad pg. 43

### 148. NEKTON DIVING CRUISES

149. I-800-899-6753 EXT. ROD See ad pg. 44

### 150. PETER HUGHES

151. SOLMAR V 1-800-344-3349 See ad pg. 45

### 152. WINDJAMMER BAREFOOT CRUISES

153. WINDJAMMER BAREFOOT CRUISES 1-800-327-2601 See ad pg. 82

### 154. WINDJAMMER BAREFOOT CRUISES

155. WINDJAMMER BAREFOOT CRUISES 1-800-327-2601 See ad pg. 45

### MISCELLANEOUS

### 156. BROADREACH

157. BROADREACH 1-919-833-1907 See ad pg. 114

### 158. IDENTITY CHECK PRINTERS

159. IDENTITY CHECK PRINTERS 1-919-833-1907 See ad pg. 115

### PHOTOGRAPHY

### 160. BERGER BROS. CAMERA & VIDEO

161. I-800-262-4160 See ad pg. 36

### 162. HELIX

163. HELIX 1-800-33HELIX See ad pg. 35

### 164. IKELITE

165. IKELITE 1-317-923-4523 See ad pg. 18

### 166. UNDERWATER PHOTO TEC

167. UNDERWATER PHOTO TEC 1-603-432-1997 See ad pg. 116

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### Explorers

(Continued from page 27)

know that that meant anything," he recalls. "This was the Jurassic. Back then, people were building their own rigs out of fire extinguishers and going down with anything." As underwater and photographic technology developed, Kristof and partners like Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution senior scientist Bob Ballard molded it for their own purposes. Using a remote camera and a 16mm lens, he shot the first picture of a submersible working deep—*Alvin*, putting 12,000 feet down in the Cayman Trough in 1976. One year later, Kristof was part of the team that sent a camera sled into hot deep sea vents 9,000 feet down in the Galapagos Rift and produced the first images of an ecosystem unlike anything else on earth. "The food chain begins with this bacteria that feeds on the hydrogen sulfide in the vent," Kristof explains. "The sun isn't involved at all. And these bacteria could make up more than 50 percent of the planet's bio-mass. It was like meeting God, and discovering that God is this gigantic mass of white bacterium."

In the late 1970s, Kristof sketched out a station wagon-sized sled outfitted with electronic cameras that he figured could advance the search for the *Titanic*. With Navy money, Ballard built this contraption—the Argo—in the early 1980s, and, in 1985, it located the *Titanic* in 12,400 feet of water and photographed the wreck for the first time. In 1991, a team that included Kristof introduced IMAX technology to deep water by making the documentary *Titanica*.

"I guess I've done the whole Indiana Jones bit with my life," muses Kristof, who somehow found time away from the water during the last three decades to amass an equally impressive topside portfolio—the Vietnam War, the space program, the Serengeti, Air Force jet fighters. But Kristof is eclipsing all of this with his current project—a \$6 million IMAX film on the hot water vent ecosystems, the most expensive nature documentary ever conceived. The project involves two Russian Mir subs, high-definition cameras and development money provided by Jim Cameron, director of *The Abyss* and the *Terminator* films. Kristof is pumped: "The vent ecosystem has changed the way scientists are searching for life on other planets. This film will probably be the closest thing to visiting another planet that people will get to experience for generations."

*Paul Kvinta is an RSD field editor.*

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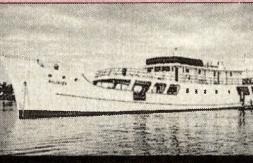
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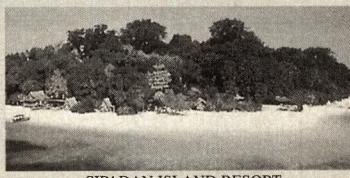
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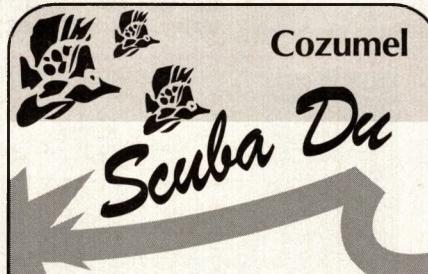


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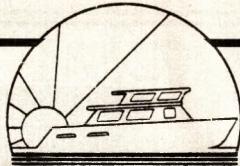
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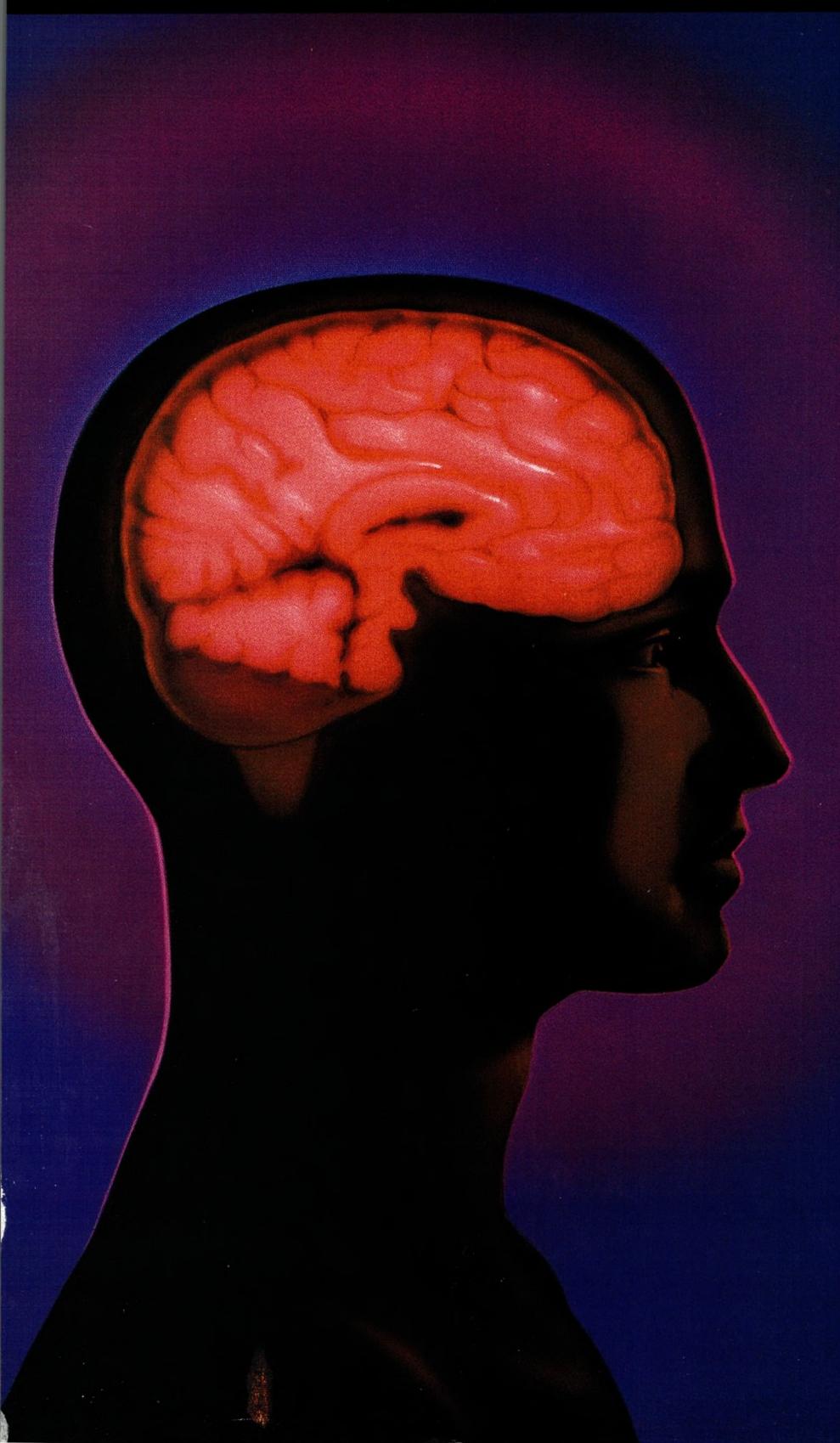
**A**fter a frustrating day off the Patagonian coast of Argentina trying to photograph dusky dolphins—*Lagenorhynchus obscurus*—I wrote in my journal, “I wish *obscurus* would not be so obscure.”

Like a good pizza, the key to this assignment was in the anchovies, the primary prey species for dusky dolphins. The dusky, an inshore species related to white-sided dolphins, is found in temperate and cold waters throughout the southern hemisphere. Where there are anchovies, you'll find the dusky dolphin. But getting to the anchovy school to photograph this feeding behavior before the dolphins got there was another matter. Many times I would arrive at the center of a feeding frenzy, but by the time I slipped into the water, the dolphins—and the anchovies—had long departed, leaving a green and empty ocean. Were it not for the silver scales of dead anchovies falling through the water column, I would have thought it all a dream. But persistence pays off, and on many occasions I found myself at the center of a feeding frenzy.

Diving the inshore waters of southern Argentina is not unlike diving off New Jersey. The water is green continental shelf water with little visibility. After the dolphins had their fill of fish, they would often swim around us in a curious fashion. My dive assistant, Bora Merdsoy, is framed by a group of curious dusky dolphins in this photograph.

Text and photography  
by **BILL CURTSINGER**

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The Aladin Nitrox estimates the Oxygen uptake according to workload and has a CNS clock to keep an eye on Oxygen toxicity.

Also the maximum partial pressure of Oxygen can be programmed via a PC.

The Aladin Nitrox does all the calculations in its brain so you don't have to do them in yours.

Naturally, there are a few technical details you should know about Nitrox before you use the Aladin, and these are taught at any number of specialized dive centers.

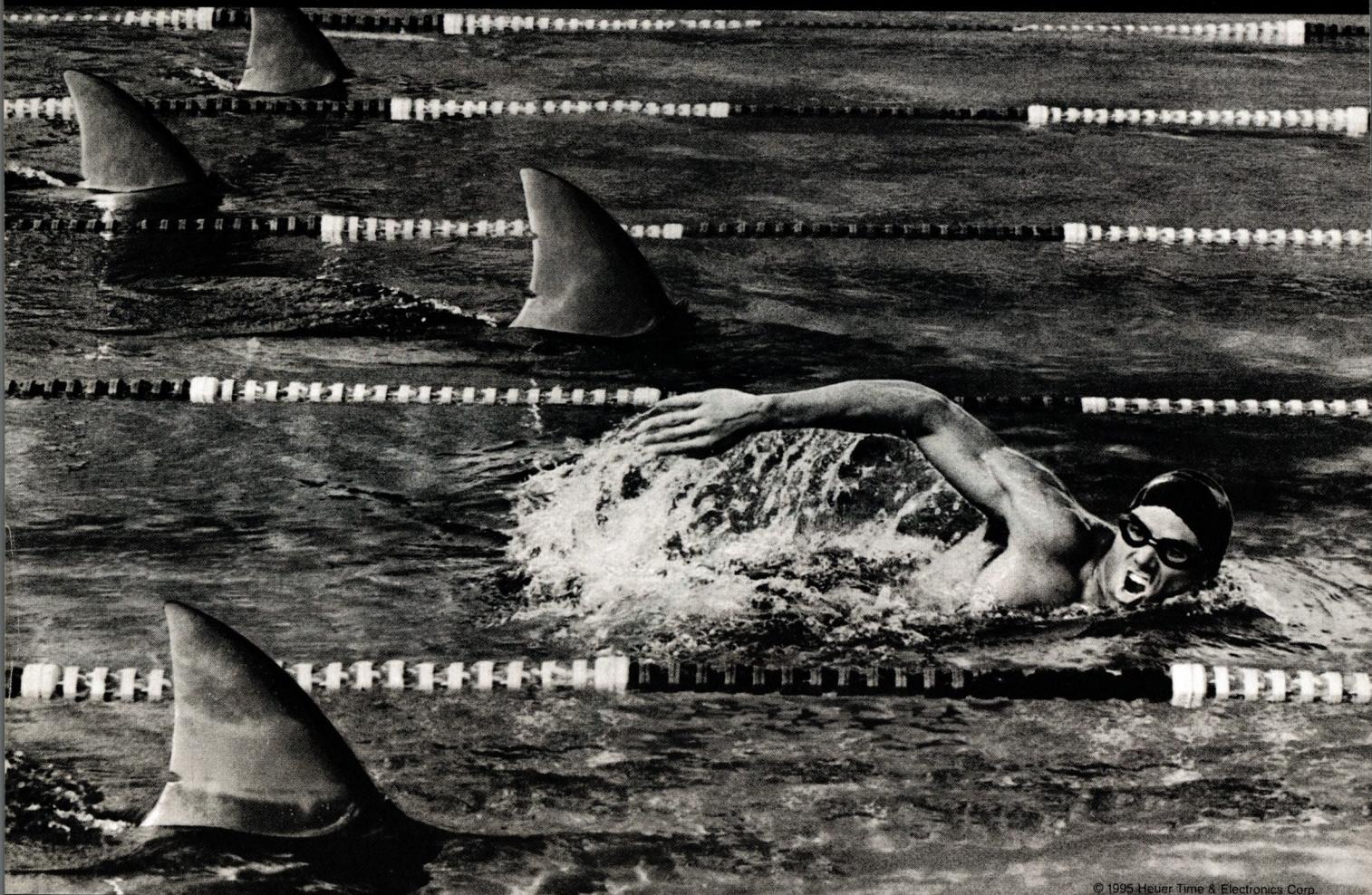
All in all, the most trying thing about the Aladin Nitrox is deciding where you should dive.

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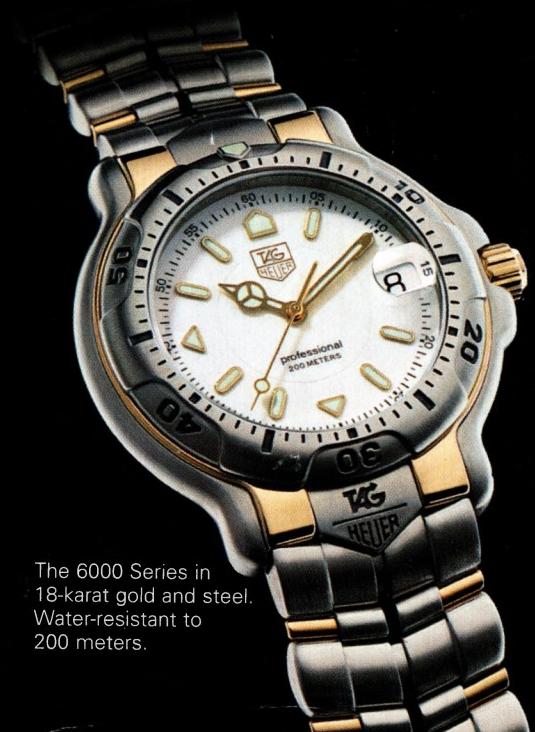


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